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THURSDAY FEBRUARY 20TH, 2020

Storm Dennis destruction and clean up - See page 10

Marie Curie Cancer Care

Shop help for flood victims

Ariane Hill
Reporter
ariane@glamorgan-gem co.uk

THE owner of a new Cowbridge shop is donating sofas to Storm Dennis flood victims in south Wales.

Suzanne Dickenson, owner of the new sofas and interior shop Enchanté and Trade Price Sofas (TPS), posted a public appeal on social media earlier this week.

Ms Dickenson, from Llantrisant, said the business wanted to give back to the community during a Facebook post on February 17.

She said: "South Wales, you supported us for 22 years. Therefore, flood victims, we are making a list of desperate customers in need and who have lost everything.

"We will be donating our sofas to help you. On behalf of Trade Price Sofas and Enchanté Interiors, we are offering many customers beautiful sofas daily and we are offering them to the not so fortunate families who have lost everything in the floods."

TPS, which has two warehouses which supply sofas across the UK, opened Enchanté Sofas and Interiors last week as the business has attracted celebrity customers such as former footballer Rio Ferdinand, Katie Price, as well as Holly Hagan and Charlotte Crosby from hit reality TV show *Geordie Shore*.

The post encouraged those affected by flooding in the local area to get in touch with Ms Dickenson, as well as those with spare televisions which are no longer in use to donate them.

Ms Dickenson continued in her Facebook post: "We urge anyone who has any spare TVs to please drop them in our stores with a note attached so you can also be thanked.

"I'm sorry we cannot take anything else but we feel if we can offer our villages sofas and spare TVs, then we have done well for our community."

Ms Dickenson asked those who are interested to comment on her Facebook post, which can be found on The Real Cowbridge Hub, with their details.

Campaigners vow to oppose housing plan

CAMPAIGNERS in Cowbridge who are opposing the demolition of the old sixth form building on Aberthin Road have launched a second petition – demanding that the Welsh Government (WG) should intervene.

Hafod Housing Association announced plans originally to demolish the building and build 48 homes, and last month submitted a new planning application which reduced the number of homes to 34.

However, the campaigners are still unimpressed, and have vowed to oppose any plan which involves knocking down the building.

A spokeswoman for the group told The GEM: "The strength of feeling in the town remains high, with over 800 signing an online petition against Hafod's revised plans in just three days."

A website has also been launched by the campaigners, at www.oldgirlsschool.wales

In a new strand to their protest campaign, the group has launched a second petition, aimed at putting pressure on the Welsh Assembly, asking that the WG should intervene and provide a subsidy to Hafod to put together a plan for new homes that retains the old building.

This petition would require 5,000 signatories to force a debate in The Senedd.

The new petition is on www.assembly.wales/en/gethome/e-petitions/Pages/petitiondetail.aspx?PetitionID=1741

A spokeswoman for the campaigners told The GEM: "As well as asking for the WG to provide a social housing grant to Hafod that could make a conversion to apartments possible, we will be renewing our call to list this building.

"It has stood for over 100 years, was made with traditional materials, and we don't accept Hafod's claims that is in a poor state of repair.

"We certainly have not see any information to back up this claim.

"We really do not feel that Hafod has engaged with the community at all on this planning proposal."

Story continued on page seven

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• Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address, contact telephone number. We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

Are things going from bad to worse..

AS we are part of the European continent, I am finding it really annoying to keep being told the UK has 'left' Europe!

There are so many things the Great Dictator in Downing Street needs to deal with – the rise in foodbanks, the homeless, zero hours contracts, low wages, NHS waiting lists, shortage of workers especially fruit and veg pickers (now we have cut ourselves off from Europeans willing to do this) – underfunding of education, no pay rise for teachers in 10 years, increase in knife crime, ridiculously high rail fares and energy prices, not to mention the abandonment of people in places that have been flooded again and again.

None of this can be attributed to membership of the European Union, so what was the point of it all? As for immigration, the numbers coming from non-EU countries far outweigh Europeans.

We are now an irrelevant small island in the English Channel, of little importance to the rest of the world, self-harm doesn't begin to cover it. I look forward to the New Dawn/Promised Land that is supposedly just around the corner!

Christine McGiffie, Bridgend.

...or is it onward and upward?

IN response to Mr Allen's very poetic response to my letter in last week's issue: although Mr Allen appears to have missed my point regarding the Welsh Assembly needing Change Management training in order to come to terms with Brexit happening, we appear to share the same level of trust regarding our PM, Boris Johnson and his party.

Should Boris actually do what he says he will do regarding Brexit, and stand firm against the threats made by Frau Von de Leyden and her EU cronies, then in the eyes of many Boris will knock Churchill off of his perch as 'the greatest Briton'. However, let us not forget that Boris is a Brexiteer simply because Boris wanted to be the Prime Minister; and he has now achieved his dream. To avoid splitting the Leave vote at the last election, my party made the difficult decision not to stand against the Tories.

This was the right thing to do for the nation; but it is unlikely that we will do that again for the Welsh assembly elections next year. By this time, if Boris is to be believed, we will have fully left the EU, as was the democratic will of the nation way back in 2016; and confirmed by the European and General Elections.

Mr Allen remarks: "We shall see who is smiling in the years ahead," and indeed we shall. With over a year of riots having taken place in France, Poland at loggerheads with the EU commission, and Danish MEP Peter Kofod telling the EU commission that they only joined so that they could trade with Britain, I am sure that us patriots will have a lot to smile about. Trade with the non-EU rest of the world has already risen by 14% since Brexit Day and we are at least as close to a trade deal with the USA as is the EU.

However, no-one can with certainty predict the future, particularly in these uncertain times. We can only speculate; but this is NOT so when it comes to the Welsh assembly. Having been run by the Labour party since it being thrust onto us by that same party, Wales still lags behind England in every devolved function, including both health and education statistics. Wales still rates as the poorest of the regions in Britain, with pay rates lagging behind England.

Add to this the £44 million of our tax money spent by the Assembly on doing nothing to alleviate the M4 traffic congestion, transport also being devolved, then Mark Drakeford and his gang really need to start upping their game.

Currently they are building a very good case for a referendum on scrapping the place and saving us all a lot of money.

Ade Pitman, Barry.

'Near misses' are a danger to everyone

I FEAR that sooner rather than later there is going to be a serious accident on the back road from the Blue Anchor to Rhoose.

Bus drivers striving to make up for lost time hammer through the lanes and I fear for dog walkers, horse riders and motorists. Have any GEM readers experienced near misses since the 304 bus to /from Cardiff has changed its route?

David Griffiths, Llantwit Major.

Wanted: your VE/VJ photographs

ON behalf of the Barry at War Group I would like to invite readers to share with us any photos they might have of either the original VE Day, or VJ celebrations in Barry and district.

We would like to use them to help commemorate the 75th anniversaries later this year.

Glenn Booker, Chairman Barry at War Group

Barry people 'need to know'

I JUST have to say that I have never read such childish drivel as penned by our leader of the Vale Council, Neil Moore.

To be honest, I'd never heard of him before this, which is hardly surprising, for all the Vale Council does. I wonder if Mr Moore has walked along Holton Road recently?

If so, has he noticed the filth that his council doesn't clean up? The boarded-up shops that outnumber the ones still hanging on by a thread? Shops closing willy-nilly because they can't afford the rates his council imposes.

Likewise, the 'market', dwindling week by week. Has he noticed any car parks? A multi-story that's barely used by shoppers, another in Thompson Street, again, rarely used by 'town' shoppers.

Mr Moore tells us that the parking charge discussions will be brought forward in 2020. Not good enough. Barry traders and dwellers need to know when. Exactly. It's clearly of no great importance to Mr Moore or his council.

His council is an absolute disgrace. As is he. I don't think I'm alone in being fed up to the back teeth with the 'bad losers' moaning on and on about 'Brexit'. A democratic vote by the whole country took us out of the EU. Not Mr Cairns or even the Government. Likewise, a democratic vote put Mr Johnson very firmly in No10.

Mr Moore should be ashamed to quote that Mr Cairns has no knowledge of what is or isn't proposed by this wash-out of a council. If he combined ideas/knowledge, he may find out how to run a council.

There's no point in petulantly stating that Mr Cairns won't be the first port of call in discussing parking charges and that local businesses will be, because there won't be any businesses to consult with if he continues to be so anti-Conservative that it's stopping him doing his job.

Thank goodness for Mr Cairns, his photo opportunities and promoting himself in newspapers. They are absolutely connected to his job. At least when residents have a problem, usually connected to the incompetent council, they know where to go for help. And if Mr Cairns can help, he will. I think he does exactly what he's paid for, unlike Mr Moore.

Mr Cairns has no need at all to apologise for all he does for Barry residents, whereas Mr Moore should be grovelling, to start with, to every resident with overflowing bins, potholes in their roads and uneven pavements in the town centre. All caused by the council.

I'd be interested to know what the wide range of events and initiatives are, that Mr Moore has planned for improving Barry town centre.

Mr Cairns not only does his job but tells us what he's doing – like securing fair funding for the Vale.

Karen McCann, Barry.

Time for some fair school funding

THE extra £600m promised by the UK Government to Wales in the recent Spending Review statement was welcome and it is hoped that the Welsh Government will use this money to boost schools funding across the country.

Yet here, in the Vale of Glamorgan, parents such as myself remain concerned that the fundamental unfairness in the funding formula, which apportions money to schools across Wales, has not been addressed. The result thus far has been that per pupil, funding in the Vale is £600 less than the Welsh average, with schools in our area forced to consider drastic money-saving measures such as shelving building projects, closing on Friday afternoons, and teachers cleaning toilets in their spare time. This threatens to put Vale of Glamorgan pupils at a significant disadvantage compared to their peers elsewhere in Wales.

A funding boost from Westminster is always welcome, but the Welsh Government has to play its part too. It must now reform the schools funding formula – or find other ways of ensuring the Vale receives a fair financial share, to ensure the Vale's schools are funded sustainably. Our children deserve no less.

Sian Jones, Penarth.

Recycling collections in Rhoose

COULD I take the opportunity to express some views about the new recycling system in the rural Vale.

After some initial hiccups, the system has bedded down now and seems to operating well. We all have to take responsibility for the waste that we generate, and if nothing else, having to sort the recycling into the separate containers makes us think twice about everything that goes out. I'm perfectly happy to invest what is a very small amount of time ensuring that everything is in the correct container, and also in a state that will be acceptable for the recyclers. It also makes us think carefully about what we buy, in particular whether the packaging is recyclable or not.

And on a very positive note, the care that the crews take in putting the containers safely and tidily back on the pavement deserves special recognition. I would go as far as to say that the teams collecting in the Fonmon Road area of Rhoose are the best in the Vale... unless of course you know different?

John Banks, Rhoose.

Do the right thing, Vale Council!

IN response to the article on February 6 entitled ' "Bizarre" swimming postcode lottery exposed', this still does not explain the reasons for CF62 only having one day for free swimming for the over 60s and CF63 postcode having four days.

Surely it would make sense to split it more evenly to two days and three days. Does the council think that we are financially better off in CF62? I think this would come under discrimination! Please sort yourselves out at The Vale of Glamorgan and do the right thing, there is no excuse.

Avril Main, CF62.

Info on Porthcawl Marine Craft Unit

I AM a member of the ASR/MCS Club and I am doing research into the 1105 MCU/44 ASRU.

1105 Marine Craft Unit was stationed at Porthcawl from January 1956 until it closed on December 1960; it was situated in the harbour and occupied the building known as the Jennings building. On closure, the number was transferred to the Unit in Portrush in Northern Ireland.

If anyone has any information, recollections or pictures of these units could I please ask you to share.

M Gibson, 77 Bedford Rise, Llantwit Major. (07551 643944)

HAVE YOUR SAY EVERY WEEK IN THE GEM'S POSTBAG

HIGH TIDE TIMES

The high tides listed in this week's Gem are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tides times will vary. For instance, in Barry the high point will be 20-25 minutes later.

UNTIL FEBRUARY 27

Date	Time	Height (metres)
20/02/2020	04.17	8.2
20/02/2020	16.52	8.5
21/02/2020	05.14	8.7
21/02/2020	17.40	8.9
22/02/2020	05.57	9.1
22/02/2020	18.19	9.3
23/02/2020	06.38	9.4
23/02/2020	18.55	9.5
24/02/2020	07.12	9.6
24/02/2020	19.29	9.5
25/02/2020	07.45	9.7
25/02/2020	19.56	9.6
26/02/2020	08.15	9.6
26/02/2020	20.28	9.5
27/02/2020	08.46	9.4
27/02/2020	20.54	9.3

While the Gem makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Banned driver wrote off car during lengthy high-speed chase

DURING a 13-mile police chase in the Vale of Glamorgan, a motorist drove at more than 120 mph and crashed into a car which was a write-off.

Cardiff Crown Court heard that 31-year-old milk depot manager Amritpal Thandi drove at an astonishing speed.

"It was nothing short of a miracle no one was killed or seriously injured," said Judge David Wynn Morgan.

Thandi admitted charges of dangerous driving, driving while disqualified, and possessing cannabis.

He had worked in the south Wales area but his home was in Dudley, west Midlands.

He was jailed for 18 months, and was disqualified from driving for two years, nine months, ordered to take an extended driving test and upon his release to pay a court surcharge of £149.

Said the Judge: "Your driving that day, and your driving history, indicates you have a complete lack of regard for rules and regulations."

He added: "It is inconceivable that the court can do anything but impose an immediate custodial sentence."

Said his counsel, David Leathley: "He is insecure and tormented. He has lost everything and this is his Armageddon."

Prosecutor Byron Broadstock said that on July 21, a police motorcyclist spotted Thandi driving a Citroen at Culverhouse Cross with no number plate.

With the blue light on, the officer followed but Thandi failed to stop and drove towards St Nicholas at 90 mph before going through Bonvilston at 70 mph and then 110 mph on the Cowbridge by-pass.

Towards Pentre Meurig, said Mr Broadstock, Thandi hit 90 mph and when a patrol car joined in the chase, he reached 120 mph. At Crack Hill, he took a right hand bend at 110 mph and went towards Bridgend town centre through red lights at 50 mph.

By then, said Mr Broadstock, two tyres had been punctured and he stopped and ran off.

Earlier, the court heard, at St Lythans, he hit a Volkswagen which was subsequently written off.

His car, the court heard, had a large amount of collision damage. Thandi had been drinking but was later found to be below the legal limit.

On him, there was a small amount of cannabis.

Thandi was said to have previous convictions for driving with excess alcohol, supplying drugs, criminal damage, driving without due care, speeding, and having no insurance.

ABOVE: Amritpal Thandi. Photo supplied by South Wales Police.

Mr Leathley said: "He has made Herculean efforts to lead an industrious life."

He was, he said, more frightened than any previous client of going to prison .

By AJ Sicluna

Email your stories, photos, letters and sports reports to editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Staff saved as store shuts

Vale MP Alun Cairns (left) with Co-op staff.

EVERY member of staff at Cowbridge's condemned Co-op supermarket have been offered new jobs within the company, it has been revealed.

Doors to the supermarket giant's High Street shop are expected to close for good on March 7, after serving customers in the town for five years.

A business is set to take over the premises, but details are being kept tightly under wraps with an announcement expected to be made soon.

Vale of Glamorgan MP Alun Cairns recently met with the company's area and branch manager to talk about the imminent closure and the impact it will have on staff.

Mr Cairns said he had been told that all 13 members of staff have either secured employment with the Co-op or taken the closure as an opportunity to find new work.

He said: "I was glad to be reassured by Co-op that all is being done to ensure their staff have been a focal point of their considerations throughout the closure of this branch.

"All 13 members of staff have been offered new roles within the company, with some choosing to use this as an opportunity to move on."

He added: "Equally important, Co-op have reached a deal with another exciting businesses who will be moving into the premises on High Street.

"After five years of operating it is a shame to see this great shop close, but I am looking forward to working with the new business – soon to be announced."

A spokesman for the Co-op said when the closure announcement was made: "Although the Co-op is growing and opening new stores, we sometimes have to make difficult decisions. Such decisions are never taken lightly."

Although details of the new tenant haven't been revealed, The GEM understands discount chain Savers is a possible replacement.

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Calls for action over crumbling roads

SOUTH Wales Central AM and Rhoose councillor Andrew RT Davies has called for action after serious deterioration of roads through Llancarfan.

The state of the road running from Pancross Farm to the A48 has grown increasingly worse over recent months, with many vehicles using it as a route to and from Cardiff Airport; the road also saw an increase in traffic during the Five Mile Lane closures, as drivers used it as a diversion. This week he met residents and has requested a site visit with the Cabinet Member responsible to assess the conditions.

"The road through Llancarfan is an in exceptionally poor state, to the extent that it is posing a safety risk to motorists. To give them credit, the council have undertaken works to address the problem, but there are still several potholes that need to be repaired.

"After meeting with residents and assessing the current state of the road, it is clear further improvements are required, and I have requested a site visit with the Cabinet Member for Highways to press for further remedial action."

Residents 'unsure' speed limit is making a difference

The new 20mph speed limit signs near Station Crescent in Pontyclun. A police appeal sign is visible following the accident in November, along with the new CCTV cameras by the pub in the background.

RESIDENTS said they have "not seen any difference" in their village since the speed limit on its main road was changed.

The main road through Pontyclun was reduced from a 30 miles per hour zone to a 20mph zone just before Christmas.

The stretch of the A4222 (also known as Cowbridge Road) which is 20mph is from Station Crescent, the junction for the train station, and it finishes just after the junction for Pontyclun Primary School.

However, residents are unsure the new speed limit is truly making a difference in the area, which experiences slow traffic.

As well as the usual rush-hour crawl, it is also affected by the drop-off and pick-up of pupils at the two schools which are either end of Pontyclun – Y Pant Comprehensive and the primary school.

Shoppers at The Community Shop said drivers in the village, which has limited parking facilities, struggle to reach 20mph most days when it's busy.

One shopper said: "The joke around here is that you're lucky if you can get up to 20mph. I think it's a waste of time because you've got so many crossings in the village, there's one this end and one that end, and there's the bit in the middle. What they should have done is made one side parking only to slow the traffic down."

A fellow shopper added: "It's typical, we've not seen any difference in how people have been driving. They have put cameras up by the speed limit signs as well, by The Windsor and down by the cenotaph."

A local shop owner said she believes people are trying to stick to the new limit as she can hear the cars speeding up as they pass the signs located outside her shop.

Jenny Watts, one of the owners of Ammonite Yarns, said: "It's a good idea but it can't be regulated because there's no speed cameras or anything in place.

"I can hear people speeding up as they get to the sign because it's near my shop, so they're not going over 30mph while they're in the village. I actually think the 20mph might be aspirational. I can't say I've noticed any real difference."

The new speed limit has been in place since December, last year – it is not known whether the timing is related to the death of a 76-year-old woman following a crash near The Windsor pub on November 30.

It is understood the change had been previously planned, along with the relocation of the Tesco bus stop to the Masonic Hall and new CCTV near the speed signs.

In October of 2018, residents received a letter from RCT saying funding had been secured from the Welsh Government to introduce a Safe Routes In the Community scheme (SRIC) which was developed with the aim of introducing the new speed limit.

The scheme, which residents were invited to comment on at the time, also proposed the introduction of School Keep Clear markings on Heol Y Felin.

RCT were contacted for more information but failed to respond in time before going to print.

LAND REQUIRED FOR A GYPSY AND TRAVELLER SITE
VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
INVITATION TO SUBMIT CANDIDATE SITES FOR GYPSY AND TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION

The Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan 2011 – 2026 (LDP) was adopted in June 2017 and includes a commitment in the approved Monitoring Framework to identify a suitable site for gypsies and travellers to accommodate the need identified in the Council's Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment 2016.

The Council is therefore making a 'Call' for candidate sites in order to provide for a gypsy and traveller site within the county and is inviting developers, landowners and other interested parties to identify land to nominate candidate sites for use as a gypsy and traveller site.

The 'Call' for sites will be open from Monday 17th February 2020 and will run until 5pm on Monday 30th March 2020.

Candidate sites should be submitted on the Candidate Site Form which is available from the Council's website www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/consultation or from the Council's Dock Office, Barry.

All candidate sites submitted must be at least 0.5 hectares in area.

Completed Forms should be returned by no later than 5pm on Monday 30th March 2020 to:

The LDP Team
Docks Office
Barry Docks
Barry
CF63 4RT
E mail: ldp@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Further information is available on the Councils web site at: www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/consultation or by contacting the LDP Team on 01446 704665.

ANGEN TIR AR GYFER SAFLE SIPSIWN A THEITHWYR
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GWAHODDIAD I GYFLWYNO DARPAR SAFLEOEDD AR GYFER LLETY SIPSIWN A THEITHWYR

Cafodd Cynllun Datblygu Lleol Bro Morgannwg 2011 - 2026 (CDLl) ei fabwysiadu ym mis Mehefin 2017 ac mae'n cynnwys ymrwymiad yn y Fframwaith Monitro cymeradwy i adnabod safle addas i sipsiwn a theithwyr i ddarparu ar gyfer yr angen a adnabuwyd yn Asesiad Llety Sipsiwn a Theithwyr y Cyngor 2016.

Felly, mae'r Cyngor yn 'Galw' am ddarpar safleoedd er mwyn darparu ar gyfer safle sipsiwn a theithwyr yn y sir ac yn gwahodd datblygwyr, perchnogion tir a phartion eraill â diddordeb i adnabod tir i enwebu darpar safleoedd i'w defnyddio fel safle sipsiwn a theithwyr.

Bydd y 'Galwad' am safleoedd ar agor o Dydd Llun 17eg Chwefror 2020 ac yn cau ar 5 yp ar Dydd Llun 30ain Mawrth 2020.

Dylid cyflwyno darpar safleoedd ar y Ffurflen Darpar Safleoedd sydd ar gael ar wefan y Cyngor ar www.bromorgannwg.gov.uk/ymgynghori neu o Swyddfa'r Dociau y Cyngor yn Y Barri.

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CF63 4RT
E-bost: ldp@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Mae rhagor o wybodaeth ar gael ar wefan y Cyngor ar: www.bromorgannwg.gov.uk/ymgynghori neu drwy gysylltu â'r Tîm CDLl ar 01446 704665.

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Council makes plans to cope with grass growing all year round

THE Vale Council says that milder winters mean that grass will need to be cut more often.

However, a council spokesperson said that it would be done at no extra cost due to a 'community benefit' agreement with the contractors.

A Vale Council spokesperson said: "There are 27 playparks in the Vale that will benefit from additional grass cutting during the winter, thanks to the community benefit agreement.

"Countrywide Grounds Maintenance currently undertake the council's amenity grass-cutting. As part of their contract, they have pledged to offer staff and machinery free of charge to help maintain the playpark grounds during the off-season.

"This will ensure that the sites are still usable for families and children throughout the winter."

The council says that milder climates mean that grass no longer stops growing during the winter. However, council resources traditionally limit the grass-cutting season to between March and October.

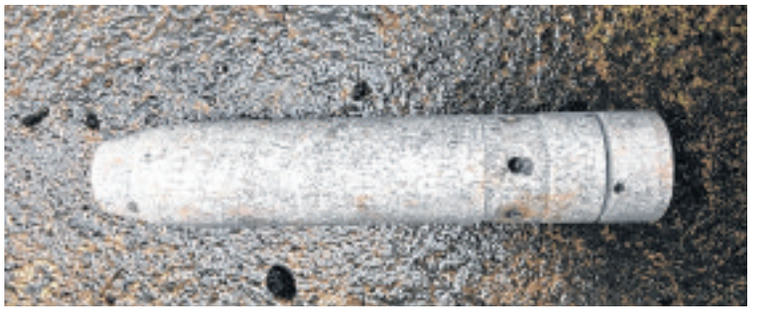
The Community Benefit scheme ensures that any contract put out by the council asks for any 'added value' that the contract would bring to the authority and community, above the basic work that is being undertaken.

The cabinet member for neighbourhood services and transport, Cllr Peter King, said: "The service that Countrywide provide is a valuable addition to the year round work our parks team undertakes and we are incredibly grateful to them.

"Many of our parks have benefitted from state-of-the-art upgrades in recent years, and the service will help ensure that these green spaces can be enjoyed all year round."

Visit www.glamorgan-gem.co.uk for all the latest news and sports

Homes evacuated after bomb found



By Megan Stanley
Reporter
editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

A FAMILY unwittingly brought home a World War Two bomb from Penarth beach – causing neighbours to be evacuated and sparking commuter chaos.

Tammy Ryan, 41, was on a beach walk with her daughter, husband and dog when they found the bomb on Monday.

"We didn't realise what it was, we just took it home and thought it was something that washed up in the storm," said Mrs Ryan.

Mrs Ryan and her family took the bomb back to her home in Andrew Road, Penarth.

It wasn't until she used Google Lens image recognition technology, that they realised it was a WW2 incendiary device.

Mrs Ryan, who works as a paramedic, called South Wales Police who evacuated her neighbours to Penarth Leisure Centre and cordoned off the area.

Police also closed Barry Road, between the junction with Penarth Road and the turning to Llandough.

"I was absolutely mortified; it was rather embarrassing. We sincerely apologise," said Mrs Ryan.

She said that they normally take things from the beach, like beech wood or shells.

"Obviously, we have never taken a bomb home before," she continued: "Luckily we had the thought to remove it from the beach, if kids had found it who knows what would have happened."

Mrs Ryan said the Penarth Leisure Centre staff were "fantastic".

"Some of them stayed late, and they gave us tea and coffee," said Mrs Ryan.

She added that some of the children joked that they should have brought their swimming kit.

A spokesperson for South Wales Police said: "Army bomb disposal units were deployed and the item was confirmed as a live incendiary bomb and safely removed."

Due to the road closure, many commuters faced a nightmare journey home on Monday evening.

Barry Road was reopened at 8.30pm, almost four hours after the initial road closure.

"Next time we find something unusual on the beach, we will do our research there – not at home," said Mrs Ryan.

First Minister has 'no intention' of sacking AM

ABOVE: First Minister Mark Drakeford.

ABOVE: Vale of Glamorgan AM Jane Hutt.

FIRST Minister Mark Drakeford says he has no intention of sacking the Welsh Government's Chief Whip, Jane Hutt.

He was responding to a suggestion at the National Assembly that the Vale of Glamorgan AM had contravened the ministerial code and the principle of collective responsibility by opposing plans to close an old people's rehabilitation ward at Barry Hospital.

Mr Drakeford said there was "no substance at all" in the suggestion from Plaid Cymru leader Adam Price. He said the code makes it clear that ministers are free to make their views known about constituency matters.

Mr Drakeford said: "What the member for the Vale of Glamorgan did is entirely consistent with the ministerial code. You aren't a Government minister for 20 years without understanding what you can and cannot do in your constituency and ministerial capacities."

He said that at the heart of the code is the principle that no-one's constituents should be disadvantaged because their elected member is a minister.

Mr Drakeford said: "Ministers are completely free, in the terms of the code, to act as the member for the Vale of Glamorgan did on this occasion." He reminded Mr Price that Ms Hutt has been elected five times to represent the Vale of Glamorgan since the National Assembly was established in 1999.

Community pulls together to secure broadband upgrade

AFTER two years of discussions with Openreach and work with community groups, the final stage of Fibre To The Premises Community Fund Partnership in Llangan have been completed.

Local MP Alun Cairns paid tribute to the way the community had facilitated the plan. As of October 2019, the first properties in Llangan were connected to the upgraded network. Before the upgrade, residents of the village only had access to 1MBPs despite businesses operating in the area and a number of residents working from home.

Alun Cairns said: "I'm absolutely delighted that Llangan will soon have access to ultrafast broadband, it's great news that we have been looking forward to for some time. I want to pay tribute to the members of the community who have worked hard to achieve this, most notably the Community Council.

"The world today is connected through the internet, which is why I have also been doing all I can to improve broadband across the Vale. Ultrafast broadband plays an essential role in supporting our economy by attracting investment and providing the platform for local businesses to grow. This upgrade will be transformative for local residents and businesses. I know local estate agents point to fast speeds as being attractive to buyers."

Christive Cave, county councillor for the area, has welcomed the completion of this project. She said: "We're incredibly excited about finally securing ultrafast broadband for the community of Llangan.

"The delivery of this project will see the entire village connected – including a number of businesses and residents who work from home. It will without question digitally transform every aspect of our lives. This wouldn't have been made a reality without the strength and support shown by the local community."

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Climate change talk in Llantwit

Heading For Extinction - a talk on climate change, will take place at CF61 community centre, Llantwit Major, 11am-1pm on Saturday, February 22. All are welcome. It's an informal meeting.
For more info see Facebook XR Vale of Glamorgan, or email xrvog@protonmail.com

Charity mediumship night

ANGEL Wings and Healing Hands have organised a charity night of Mediumship with renowned psychic Brian Downs on February 22, 7pm – 9pm, at Buttrills Community Centre, Barry.
There will be a raffle, stalls, and refreshments. Admission is £5 and proceeds will go the the Shua Trust, the Sully-based animal rescue and rehabilitation group.

Maesteg Male Voice Choir

ON Saturday, February 29 the Maesteg Male Voice Choir will hold their 45th annual concert.
Due to the closure of Maesteg Town hall for refurbishment the concert will be held at Maesteg Comprehensive School at 7pm. There is ample parking at the school and a bar will be available on the night. The guest artist is the superb tenor Rhys Meirion from north Wales, accompanied by the choir's own Laura Deenik.
Huw Morgan the choir's musical director has put together an excellent programme and following on from last year's fantastic finale has promised this year will be even better.
Tickets are now available from any choir member; call Tom Beedle on 01656 736954 or 07811 339988, tickets will also be available on the door.

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Victory for 'common sense' as council abandons controversial parking plans

AN "UNMITIGATED disaster" has been avoided after the Vale Council made a U-turn on controversial parking charges, it has been claimed.

Fears the authority was going to start charging motorists to park in the area's town centres and streets were dashed this week when the council's car parking proposals were unveiled.

Proposals, which will go under the microscope at Monday's cabinet meeting, include no charges for on-street parking within town centres and at least two hours free parking in all existing town centre car parks.

There would also be no charge for on-street parking at any coastal resort, no charge to park at country parks before 10am and no charge for residents parking permits for those eligible.

Cllr Neil Moore, leader of the Vale Council, said: "I know how sensitive an issue car parking is within the community and we have paid close attention to residents' views when drafting these proposals.

"They include no plans to charge for on-street parking in town centres, meaning there should be no negative impact on local businesses.

"The creation of two shopper's car parks should mean a greater turnover of visitors to our two major shopping areas and we have made sure that there is free car parking in these locations for those who work there.

"Local residents will still be able to use our country parks free of charge early in the morning, while standardising charges at coastal resort car parks recognises their year-round appeal."

Plans are afoot to create two new Shoppers Car Parks at Wyndham Street in Barry and near Cowbridge's Town Hall.

These would be free to use for up to two hours, cost £2 for a stay between two and four hours, with a price of £6 for all-day parking. Parking would be free on Sundays.

Charges for coastal resort car parks including Barry Island, Southerndown and Ogmore-by-Sea would remain as they are for summer months, with those rates extended to cover the entire year.

Annual permits will be available for coastal car parks for the first time at a cost of £50 for six months and £100 for the year. Disabled people will be exempt from those charges.

Parking at non-resort car parks such as Cold Knap and Bron y Mor n Barry, Cwm Colhuw in Llantwit Major and Cliff Walk and Llwyn Passat in Penarth, Portabello in Ogmore-by-Sea and West Farm in Southerndown will be free.

From 10am until 8pm between March and September and until 5pm from October to February, it will cost £1 to park for up to two hours at either Porthkerry or Cosmeston Country Parks.

Between two and four hours will cost £2, while the charge for all-day parking would be £4.

Where parking charges apply, modern solar-powered pay and display machines will be installed, with coin, chip and pin and contactless payment options. An improved mobile phone parking app is also being proposed.

No changes to the current Residents Parking Permit policy are proposed for 2020/21, which will remain free to eligible residents.

Conservative group leader, Cllr Vince Bailey, declared that "common sense has prevailed" after the authority's parking plans were revealed on Tuesday.

He said the Vale Council had been under-pressure to drop the "disastrous" plans after fierce opposition from the public, traders and some councillors.

Cllr Bailey explained: "At last common sense has prevailed, and the Vale Council has finally addressed many of our concerns.

"As leader of the Conservative group I have been vocal in calling for the council to scrap them all together.

"The original proposals brought forward by Labour's colleagues in the Independent group would have been an unmitigated disaster for high streets, parks and coastal resorts throughout the Vale and it is a relief to see that their influence on important policy decisions has now been kicked to the curb."

He added: "Clearly there are still some areas of concern within these proposals and we will continue to press for a parking policy that works for residents and traders.

"However, these proposals are a significant improvement and we are pleased the cabinet have responded to public pressure."

Vale MP Alun Cairns called on the council to abandon plans to introduce car parking charges at a time when shops are struggling to make ends meet.

Mr Cairns said: "The Vale Council must rethink. Each and every time parking proposals have been suggested they have always been recognised as being bad for town centres. Why do they think this is different this time?

"No matter how modest or not charges will be, they have broken the principle of free parking in our shopping areas. I have no doubt that if they claim that the charges are low, then I suggest that they are following a tactic just to introduce the principle of charging. I am confident that they will increase over time and become a cash-cow.

"When parking machines were not repaired in Cardigan, West Wales, the boost seen by local shops made UK news. There is an obvious message in this. People don't like to pay for parking and will go elsewhere if they need to.

"Their plan to charge at Country Parks and on Barry Island all year round will kill off their winter trade. The Council also have a 'Well-being' policy to encourage activity amongst residents. Their plan will threaten the Barry Island Park run, that plays a major part in supporting health and fitness. The run starts at 9am and few are complete within an hour! It also attracts many visitors to the area – even from Billericay in our Gavin and Stacey run last year.

"The parking charges will have a catastrophic impact on workers reliant on car parks for their daily commute, whilst at the same time they have slashed support for buses. Their proposals would mean that they will pay over £1500 pounds a year in parking charges. Apprentices gaining career forming experience will have to pay nearly a quarter of their daily pay on parking charges.

"My question to The Vale Council is why their own car park remains exempt from the charges whilst they impose hefty fees on local residents?"

ABOVE: Tory group leader Vincent Bailey.

BELOW: Vale Council leader Neil Moore.

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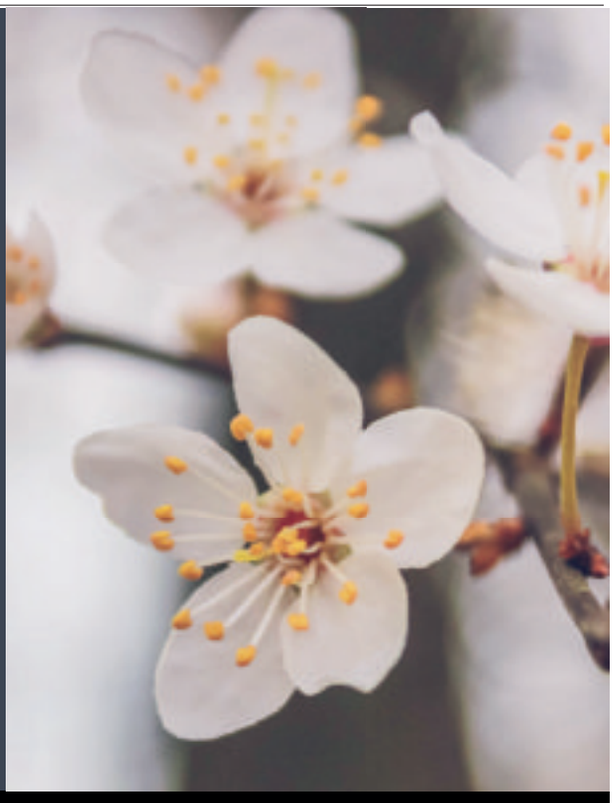

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Campaigners vow to oppose housing plans

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

A spokesperson for Hafod said: ""Hafod is a not-for-profit organisation committed to supporting communities by providing high-quality affordable homes based on identified local need.

"Where possible, we do our best to preserve existing buildings if it is economical and in the interest of local housing needs. However, in this instance it is not commercially feasible to retain the structure for re-use.

"After consultation with the public and meeting with Jane Hutt and members of the community, we can confirm that we have submitted a revised plan to the Vale of Glamorgan Council, reducing the number of dwellings to 34 from 48.

"The planning application will continue to follow the due planning process and the full details are available on the Vale Council's website."

The campaigners feel so strongly about that matter that they have taken an advert in this week's GEM (see page 9) detailing their objections.

They have had support from South Wales Central AM Andrew RT Davies, who said: "The Old Girls' Grammar School is part of the history of Cowbridge, and these plans to tear it down must be stopped.

"The local action group have organised a petition, which is now live, and I'm urging all residents to go online and sign.

"Hafod's plans are completely inappropriate, and would be hugely destructive. We need to work together to make sure they do not become a reality."

Submissions open for candidate gypsy and traveller sites

RESIDENTS have been invited to submit candidate sites for a new gypsy and traveller site after a suitable location could not be identified by Vale of Glamorgan Council.

The council said its Adopted Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan 2011-2026 includes commitment in the approved monitoring framework to identify a suitable site for gypsies and travellers.

It is to accommodate the need which was identified in the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment which was carried out in 2016.

However, initial work undertaken by the council's gypsy and traveller accommodation board to find a site, which included investigating council-owned land and approaching large land owners, was unsuccessful so the Vale of Glamorgan Council is now calling on submissions of candidate sites.

The council said it is inviting developers, landowners and other interested parties to identify land to nominate candidate sites for use as a gypsy and traveller site.

Submissions for candidate sites, which must be at least 0.5 hectares, opened on Monday, February 17 – the deadline is at 5pm on Monday, march 30.

A Vale of Glamorgan Council spokesman said: "The Council has a statutory requirement to assess the requirements of Gypsy and Traveller groups in its area and if necessary, identify a site for them.

"Initial work undertaken by the Council's Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Board, which including investigating Council-owned land and approaching large landowners, failed to identify a suitable site.

"Therefore, the Council has placed adverts in the local press, asking those who own appropriate sections of land to come forward."

Each site will be assessed to make sure it can satisfy planning policy requirements and to see that is deliverable – site assessments will look at physical and environment constraints, infrastructure and access requirements.

Submitted candidate sites will be compiled into a site register which will be publicly available in due course.

Candidate sites should be submitted via the candidate site form which is available to download on the consultations section of the Vale of Glamorgan Council's website. Paper copies of the form are available from the council's docks office in Barry.

Vale of Glamorgan has said that submissions do not confer any status onto the sites, and that the council will not consider the locations for anything other than the gypsy and traveller site.

More information is available on the council's website or by calling 01446 700111.

Forms should be returned either by emailing dp@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk, or by posting or returning them to the LDP team at the Docks Office, Barry Docks, Barry with the postcode CF63 4RT.

Samantha B
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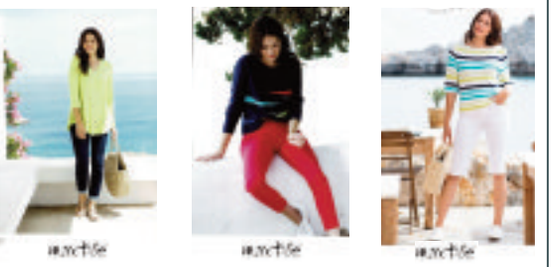
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A Parent/Carer Drop-in Session is taking place on Tuesday 25th February, 4.30-6.30 p.m. at Civic Offices, Barry. No need to book, just come along if you would like more information or support with your application.

What is the Offer?

30 hours a week of funded early education and childcare for eligible parents of 3 and 4 year olds, for up to 48 weeks of the year. The 30 hours will consist of a combination of School nursery provision (12.5 hours) open to all 3 and 4 year olds, and the additional funded childcare (17.5 hours) for eligible families. During the school holidays it will just consist of 30 hours funded childcare, allocated at three weeks per term.

How do I apply?

The next round of applications for the childcare funding will be open on 24th February for children who were born between January 1st and March 31st 2017.

All complete applications submitted with all correct evidence by 13th March 2020 will be responded to by 30th March 2020. Funding for eligible families will start on 20th April 2020 (the beginning of Summer Term).

Incomplete applications received between 24th February 2020 – 13th March 2020 will take longer to process.

You can still apply after 13th March 2020, but funding may not be guaranteed for the start of the Summer Term.

Childcare Offer applications for children born on or before 31st December 2016 are open already.

You (and your partner, in a two-parent family) will need to upload three months of payslips, or your self-assessment form, your most recent council tax letter and your child's birth certificate to the online application.

You can apply online: **www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/fis**

Who can access the Offer?

Parent/s must be employed or self-employed and permanently reside in the Vale of Glamorgan; both parents must be working in a two parent family, or the sole parent in a lone parent family and earn at least a weekly minimum equivalent of 16 hours at the national minimum wage (NMW) or national living wage (NLW) and be able to prove they are working via their earnings. Further information is available regarding parents on maternity/paternity leave, certain types of benefits claimed etc.

For more information and support with your application, come along to the drop in session on Tuesday 25th February, at Civic Offices, Barry, between 4.30 and 6.30 p.m, or contact the Family Information Service 01446 704704 fis@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

We will also have an information stand at the Civic Offices for the week from Monday 24th – Friday 28th February. This may not be staffed at all times.

Gwasanaeth Gwybodaeth i Deuluoedd y Fro
Vale Family Information Service

VALE of GLAMORGAN
BRO MORGANNWG

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Groups receive helpful donations from the Lions

LLANTWIT Major and Cowbridge Lions Club held a successful presentation evening in the Lesser Hall of Cowbridge Town Hall on February 13.

The main purpose of the evening was to present cheques to various local groups and charities. The money was, in the main, collected during the Cowbridge Reindeer Parade.

Those receiving cheques were: Cowbridge Rotary Club; Cowbridge Gateway Monday Club; Cowbridge Barnardo's Helpers' Group; Cylch Meithrin y Bont Faen; Bridgend Samaritans; Vale Foodbank; The Big Wrap; Wick Youth Club; and Llantwit Major Comprehensive School.

Representatives from each of the groups attended as well as Sian Vaughan, the Deputy Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council and members of Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions Club.

Following an introduction by Liz Evans, explaining a little about the work of Lions International, the cheques were presented by Sue Taylor, president of Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions Club.

After each presentation the recipients gave brief but interesting talks about the work that they do covering, between them, a wide variety of invaluable community support activities.

There then followed time to meet and chat over tea, coffee, sandwiches and cakes.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012
Listed Building Consent / Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/Rhif y cais:	2020/00053/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Proposed installation of a glass platform lift within the building using the existing opening to the first floor. A small amount of the existing iron balustrade to be removed in order to provide access to the lift
Location:/Lleoliad:	Turner House, Plymouth Road, Penarth
Listed Building:/Adeilad Rhestredig	Grade II

Affecting setting of a Listed Building/Cais (au) sy'n effeithio ar leoliad Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/Rhif y cais:	2019/01311/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Consent for the residential conversion of the Old Rectory and coach house, demolition of out buildings and structures, and associated works including the construction of a new residential coach house, and parking
Location:/Lleoliad:	The Old Rectory, 10-12, Old Port Road, Wenvoe
Listed Building:/Adeilad Rhestredig	Affecting The Old Rectory, Grade II
Application No:/Rhif y cais:	2020/00089/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Change of use of the land for an events area – to include a tipi, catering tent, toilets, games lawn, smoking area and festoon lighting
Location:/Lleoliad:	Land North of Fonmon Castle
Listed Building:/Adeilad Rhestredig	Affecting Fonmon Castle Grade I, the Stable Grade II, retaining walls of South garden Grade II and the walls of walled gardens Grade II
Application No:/Rhif y cais:	2020/00090/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Erection and installation of boiler house / biomass facility
Location:/Lleoliad:	Land to the East of the Walled Garden, Fonmon Castle
Listed Building:/Adeilad Rhestredig	Affecting Fonmon Castle Grade I, the Stable Grade II, retaining walls of South garden Grade II and the walls of walled gardens Grade II

Application(s) of General Interest / Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/Rhif y cais:	2019/01311/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Consent for the residential conversion of the Old Rectory and coach house, demolition of out buildings and structures, and associated works including the construction of a new residential coach house, and parking
Location:/Lleoliad:	The Old Rectory, 10-12, Old Port Road, Wenvoe

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy

http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/

Dated / Dyddiedig: 20 February, 2020

V. L. Robinson
Operational Manager, Regeneration and Planning,
Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry.
CF63 4RT

Community news from Llangan and Treoes with Nancy Davidge

THE road leading from Pentre Meyrick to Pencoed towards Llangan village will be closed on February 20 and 21 between 9am and 3pm for work to be carried out by British Telecom.

Saron Chapel, Treoes: The next service at Saron will take place on Sunday, February 23 at 3pm conducted by Mr Trevor Harry. Everyone is assured of a warm welcome.

VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
NOTICE OF PUBLIC INQUIRY
THE COMMONS ACT 2006

Notice is hereby given that the Vale of Glamorgan Council (the Council) in its capacity as Registration Authority has appointed an independent Inspector to consider the application to register a town or village green on the land known as **The Cricket Field, Cowbridge Vale of Glamorgan (being the Cricket Field of the former Cowbridge Grammar School)**

The Inspector will attend at the Boardroom at the Council's Dock Office, Subway Road, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan on Monday 23, Tuesday 24, and Wednesday 25 March 2020 and if required Thursday 26 March 2020 beginning each day at 10.00am, to hold a public local inquiry into the application.

Any person wishing to view the application and other documents relating to it, may do so by request at the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan, CF63 4RU during the hours of 9:00am to 5.00pm Monday to Thursday and 9.00am to 4:30pm on Friday from Monday 24 February 2020.

Dated: 20 February 2020
Debbie Marles
Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services
Vale of Glamorgan Council

CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG
HYSBYSIAD O YMCHWILIAD CYHOEDDUS
DEDDF TIROEDD COMIN 2006 ADRAN 15(1)

Rhoddir hysbysiad drwy hyn fod y Cyngor Bro Morgannwg (y Cyngor) fel yr Awdurdod Cofrestru wedi penodi Arolygydd annibynnol i ystyried y cais i gofrestru werdd pentref neu dref ar y tir a elwir yn **Y Maes Criced, Yr Bont-faen, Bro Morgannwg (sef Maes Criced hen Ysgol Ramadeg y Bont-faen)**

Bydd yr Arolygydd yn mynychu yn yr Ystafell Fwrdd yn Swyddfa Doc y Cyngor, Bro Morgannwg, Heol yr Isffordd, y Barri, Bro Morgannwg ar Ddydd Llun 23, Dydd Mawrth 24, a Dydd Mercher 25 Mawrth 2020 ac os oes angen Dydd Iau 26 Mawrth 2020 gan ddechrau bob dydd am 10.00am, i gynnal ymchwiliad lleol cyhoeddus i'r cais hwn.

Gall unrhyw berson sydd yn dymuno gweld y cais hwn ac unrhyw ddogfennau eraill yn ymwneud ag ef, wneud hynny drwy gais yn swyddfeydd Dinesig Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Heol Holton, y Barri, Bro Morgannwg, CF63 4RU rhwng 9.00am a 5.00pm o Ddydd Llun i Ddydd Iau, a rhwng 9.00am i 4.30pm ar Ddydd Gwener o Ddydd Llun 24 Chwefror 2020 ymlaen.

Dyddiedig: 20 Chwefror 2020
Debbie Marles
Swyddog Monitro / Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol a Democrataidd
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg

What's on?

Trustee training

ARE you, or do you want to be, a trustee of a charity or a voluntary group?

Glamorgan Voluntary Services (GVS) has a short training session which covers the fundamentals of what it means to be a trustee and explains the duties and responsibilities involved.

The session will take place on March 18 at CF61 in Llantwit Major, 10am – 12pm, cost £30. Spaces are limited so early booking is encouraged.

Tickets from Eventbrite: gvs-being-a-trustee-2020.eventbrite.com or from GVS on: 01446 741706, E-mail: enquiries@gvs.wales.

SAVE THE OLD GIRLS' SCHOOL IN COWBRIDGE FROM DEMOLITION

Object to Hafod's Latest Plans

Planning Application 2018/01408/FUL

Hafod Housing Association have resubmitted plans to demolish the school in its entirety and replace it with 34 housing units; a three-storey block of flats and 4 townhouses. Despite efforts from the community to work with them on a scheme that would retain the building whilst also providing social housing, Hafod have instead continued with their plans to bulldoze through Cowbridge's heritage and character.

Why is the school so important?

- The school was the ***first*** to be built specifically for the secondary education of girls in Wales (and England) as a result of the Welsh Intermediate Education Act of 1896
- It is a recognised historic asset and has been recommended for 'County Treasure' status
- The school has many unusual architectural features and was designed by an architect who was considered a pioneer of his time
- The school survives as a prominent and attractive testimony to the equal educational opportunities afforded to underprivileged girls of the time

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

1. **SIGN THE PETITIONS:**
   - i. **To the Welsh Assembly:** https://www.assembly.wales/en/gethome/e-petitions/Pages/petitiondetail.aspx?PetitionID=1741 **or visit our webpage** www.oldgirlsschool.wales **for link**
   - ii. **To the Council:** http://chng.it/Ht6GzxbF **or search 'Victorian Cowbridge' at** Change.org
2. **OBJECT TO THE COUNCIL:**

   By email: developmentcontrol@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk **Quote ref 2018/01408/FUL**
   By post: Development Control, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry CF63 4RU
   Online: http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/plancomment.aspx?AppNo=2018/01408/FUL

Full campaign details at:

www.oldgirlsschool.wales

Storm Dennis leaves path of destruction across Wales

Main photo and bottom right show flooding in Super Ely. Left is the damage at Porthcawl's Boardwalk and right shows a wave splashing onlookers at Barry Island during the storm

STORM Dennis battered south Wales over the weekend, leaving a path of destruction and flooding.

A red weather warning was in place from 6.10am until 11am on Sunday, February 16 which covered most of south Wales including Bridgend, the Vale of Glamorgan, Ogmore Vale and Rhondda Cynon Taf – a month's worth of rain is thought to have fallen in some areas of south Wales in only a few hours.

Storm Dennis, which descended upon the UK on Valentine's Day – Friday, February 14 – was only days after Storm Ciara which had swept the UK during the previous weekend.

Areas such as Peterston-Super-Ely experienced flooding which affected businesses and left residents stranded.

While the Vale of Glamorgan village was accessible from the end nearest to St Fagans, residents were warned to avoid travelling through it.

Vale Communities for Future Generations (VCFFG) said it was a "powerful reminder" of the impact of climate change and that it would be a greater problem if the plans go ahead for the new airport slip road linking the M4 at junction 34 to the A48.

The group has claimed the plan is "out of date" and without "valid" environmental impact studies.

Ogmore Vale is also understood to have experienced some flooding, with posts on social media appealing for help for the Ogmore Valley Welfare Hall which was flooded.

A property on Commercial Street is also thought to have been flooded, and in Corbett Street council workers put sandbags around homes to protect them from a culvert which had become overwhelmed.

Council workers also worked hard to clear culverts in Pencoed at Min-y-Nant and Green Acre Drive.

Meanwhile Nantymoel and Ogmore Vale Pharmacies has warned its users to order repeat prescriptions earlier and to allow more time as its main supplier, Phoenix, is based in Nantgarw which was badly flooded.

The A4063 which links Bridgend and Cymer, closed over the weekend due to a fallen tree, however it reopened on Sunday afternoon.

Pontyclun also experienced flooding in the wake of Storm Dennis, as the river Ely burst its banks near Brynsadler.

The village football pitch, home to Pontyclun Football Club, was flooded along with the footpaths which lead from the A4222 to Ivor Woods.

Porthcawl experienced debris in areas like the Boardwalk following the high tide from the rain water, with drift wood and rocks strewn across the public footpath.

South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, South Wales Police, Bridgend County Borough Council, Vale of Glamorgan Council and RCT all praised their workers for working to combat Storm Dennis on the weekend while the storm was ongoing and this week during the clean up.

South Wales fire service is thought to have received an unprecedented 1,300 calls over the weekend.

A yellow weather warning for rain is still in place today, Thursday, at 3pm.

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■Discount applies, excludes decorative items such as plinths, pelmets and panels, ex-display and clearance lines. Varies according to range.

Getting education off to a fine art

CARDIFF and Vale College swept the board at the inaugural Wales Creative and Cultural Skills Awards, winning in three categories.

CAVC hosted the awards, which coincided with the launch of the Welsh Government's Creative Wales to support and encourage the creative industries. Megan O'Brien, a foundation degree in film student, won Wales Creative Student of the Year, chosen for representing the college on an Erasmus trip to Spain then giving a presentation on her experiences at an academic conference.

Currently managing a live brief for CAVC to develop a marketing strategy for her course, Megan takes every opportunity to engage with career development.

Film and media lecturer Cristina Raad was joint winner of the Wales Creative Tutor of the Year Award. Cristina regularly brings industry practitioners into the college to workshops to develop the learner experience. She has also boosted students' employability by co-ordinating an Erasmus programme with Spanish partners.

The CAVC Education team won the Wales Creative Collaboration of the Year Award for its work with Media Academy Cardiff. CAVC and MAC have worked in partnership for seven years providing education and support across a range of media skills to vulnerable and hard to reach people, many of whom progress on to becoming full-time students at the college. Iestyn James, a learner with CAVC partner Rubicon Dance, won Wales Creative Learner of the Year, for his work as a role model and example of how young people can inspire others.

CAVC Deputy Principal Sharon James said: "We are over the moon to have won awards for our students, staff and work to widen participation in creative education at these the very first Wales Creative and Cultural Skills Awards. I congratulate our winners.

"The Creative Industries are a growth area for Wales, and at CAVC we want to see ourselves at the forefront, training up the next generation of creative talent. Winning these three awards is testament to the hard work and dedication of our students and of our staff – I am so proud of them."

Welsh Government 'losing battle to eradicate TB'

THE Shadow Minister for Rural Affairs, Andrew RT Davies AM/AC, has blasted the Welsh Labour Government over its approach to bovine TB as the latest figures show another shock increase – up by 14 percent – in livestock slaughtered because of the disease.

Mr Davies, who is the Member for South Wales Central, and a farmer, said that the administration in Wales is "… losing the battle to manage and eradicate bovine TB". The latest set of statistics for November 2019 follow two consecutive months that each showed record increases. In the 12 months to November 2019, 12,354 cattle – up by 1,518 from 10,836 – were slaughtered due to bovine TB. The figures for England for the same period show a four-percent decrease from 32,937 to 31,562.

Mr Davies said: "Let's be clear about this: the battle to eradicate bovine TB is being lost by the Welsh Labour Government here in Wales. The action and measures it has implemented to date are letting down the farming community and wildlife population in Wales, and a lasting solution is long overdue.

"Livelihoods are at stake, and no amount of compensation – the average cost of £179,000 per herd for compensation and testing is not really reparation – for the loss and anxiety suffered makes up for it; and we must look at the financial cost, as well as the human and animal suffering.

"Some £14.5 million in compensation was paid to Welsh farmers in 2018-2019. This is an increase on the £11.7m paid during 2017-2018 and £10.9m in 2016-2017. These vast amounts of money from the taxpayer should be spent more wisely than this. The Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs, Lesley Griffiths, had said that the current compensation paid to farmers is 'unsustainable'. The Welsh Government is proposing a review of the current bovine TB compensation regime, but no timescales were provided by the Minister when she announced the review in Plenary in April 2019."

Mr Davies concluded by saying: "The sad truth is that these figures highlight that the Labour Government's relationship with and understanding of rural and agricultural Wales is at an all-time low.

"The hardworking farmers of Wales deserve a comprehensive, scientifically-led, holistic programme of bovine TB eradication to tackle the disease in cattle and wildlife, and it looks like only a Welsh Conservative administration would deliver this."

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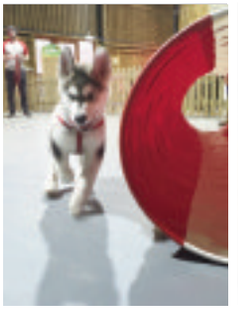
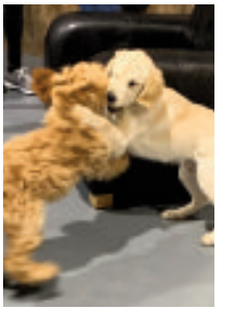

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Canine carer Chelsey Gough says: "Wallace will need some encouragement to become friends, but once the trust is there, he has plenty of love to give and once settled he is sure to flourish in his new home." Wallace will suit an experienced, adult-only home who can continue with his ongoing training. His new family should visit him several times to get to know him, prior to adoption.

For more information on Wallace, visit the Dogs Trust Rehoming Centre in Bridgend, CF31 4NG; or give us call on 01656 338745. You can also visit our website at www.dogstrust.org.uk.

Cameras deployed as part of crackdown on railway abuse

RAILWAY workers will start wearing body worn cameras in a bid to crack down on anti-social behaviour on trains, Transport for Wales has announced.

The company will be giving certain workers, including conductors and station staff, recording equipment as part of a trial.

Cameras are being rolled out after statistics revealed more than 350 incidents of verbal or physical abuse against staff were reported last year.

The body worn camera trial is the railway company's latest venture aimed at stamping out anti-social behaviour, having employed extra security staff and investing in CCTV at every station.

A spokesman for the company revealed the trial will include four different types of cameras and after a review period, one company will be chosen to supply 300 cameras across the network.

Ken Skates, Welsh Government minister for economy and transport, said: "Everyone has the right to work or travel on our network without the fear of abuse or threats.

"The rail staff there to help us are no different to our family and friends. They are working hard to get us from A to B, often in difficult circumstances."

He added: "We must stamp out anti-social behaviour and do everything we can to support staff to do their jobs and let passengers make their journeys in a safe and pleasant environment."

Marc Clancy, a conductor at Transport for Wales, explained: "We have to deal with a range of people daily and most of our customers are grateful and polite.

"We work extremely hard to give our customers the best possible experience when using our services, however at times staff and passengers do experience occasional anti-social behaviour and abuse.

"The introduction of these cameras should act as a deterrent to anti-social behaviour, support assault prosecutions and boost public confidence in safety.

"They will provide front-line staff with more confidence when dealing with difficult situations and abusive customers."

The trial is being delivered by Transport for Wales alongside the British Transport Police.

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Leekes picks up a top award

LEEKES have been named winners of the 'Best Independent Department Store' category in The Housewares Innovation Awards.

Organised by the publishers of Housewares Magazine, Datateam Business Media and their digital partner housewareslive.net in conjunction with Spring Fair, the Housewares Innovation Awards champions excellence, and awards talent from across the housewares sector.

The award was collected on behalf of the business by Amanda Reed, buying controller who said: "The award acknowledges the work of all of the Leekes team, ensuring we remain the home experts our customers trust to provide all the inspirational ideas, excellent advice, great quality and well-priced products and comprehensive services they need to improve their home."

Emma Leeke, managing director said: "We are delighted to have been recognised: it's always great to have our efforts rewarded, particularly as an independent retailer in what is an increasingly competitive and fast changing retail environment."

Allotments thrive thanks to airport

A NEW agreement with Vale of Glamorgan Council will see compost processed in the on-site Food Rocket at Cardiff Airport delivered regularly to nearby Ceri Road allotments in Rhoose.

The first delivery of over 270 kilos of the fresh compost was delivered to the allotments recently, which will be available to all plot owners to use to help their fruits, vegetables and plants to thrive and grow. Every fortnight the allotment owners will receive a fresh delivery of approximately 120 kilos.

Mark Bailey of planning and development at Cardiff Airport, said: "We're delighted to be able to put the product to good use and support the community, meaning that none of our on-site food waste goes to landfill. This is an exciting next step in our Environmental Flight Path, our timeline of immediate and short term environmental goals."

Cllr Neil Moore, Leader of the Vale of Glamorgan Council said: "This is an innovative scheme that will provide the allotments at Ceri Road with nutrient-rich compost. On behalf of our allotment tenants, I'd like to thank Cardiff Airport for this generous donation."

New business enjoys a warm welcome

A NEW business in Cowbridge, Enchanté, says it has received an incredibly warm welcome.

Owner Suzanne Dickenson told The GEM: "I cannot believe the love and welcome from the town.

"Bringing a smile to Cowbridge is exactly what we wanted! Customers are blown away by how lovely the store looks inside, with its hidden gem upstairs.

"This holds the most elegant of sofas – old English leather and tartan chairs accompanied by the cutest of lamps and sophisticated stylish marble dining tables – with knocker chairs – the in thing I'm told.

"Gracing the floor stands an old reclaimed dining table that sits 10, and the bed is out of this world – a new fluffy style that is the latest design with soft lambswool. It's the cutest thing ever! It's a must, you have to pop in!"

Suzanne added: "It's a real treat to work here. Having served the UK for 27 years from industrial warehouses, Cowbridge is a comfy treat!"

For more information, see Enchanté's advert on page 13.

AM backs defib campaign

REGIONAL AM Suzy Davies is backing the St John's Defibrillator campaign to raise awareness during February of the importance of having defibrillators located in as many places as possible.

Welsh Conservative Mrs Davies said: "I have campaigned since 2011 for defibrillators to be placed throughout our communities. My legislative proposals to this effect had cross party support from Assembly members but, sadly, not from Welsh Government. Even so, I am delighted that there is now a greater public awareness of the need for them and how easy it is to use them.

"If someone suffers a cardiac arrest away from a hospital setting, there are literally just minutes to save their life. The survival rate for such victims is just one in ten and that drops by a further ten per cent for every minute that passes. Early CPR and defibrillation is vital in saving lives.

"I have also argued for the teaching of life saving skills to be compulsory in schools so children are equipped to deal with these emergencies. Again, I had backing from AMs for this proposal but the Minister has resisted making it a mandatory part of the school curriculum, in contrast to the position in England and Ireland.

"I'm glad, though, that some schools invite organisations like St John's Cymru, Cariad, Welsh Hearts, British Heart Foundation and the Red Cross to train children and young people to help grow Wales as a nation of lifesavers."

Vets issue advice after dogs struck by vomiting bug

THE British Veterinary Association (BVA) has issued advice for dog owners following a spike in the number of acute gastroenteritis cases being reported in many parts of the country.

Vets report dogs with symptoms including more frequent vomiting than is usually seen in canine gastroenteritis cases, accompanied in a few instances by diarrhoea, anorexia and lethargy.

It is reported that affected dogs usually make a full recovery following prompt veterinary care to treat the symptoms. However, a small number of deaths have been reported; it is currently not clear if these are linked to the condition under investigation.

British Veterinary Association president Daniella Dos Santos said: "While pet owners are understandably worried, the cases may be part of a normal increase in gastroenteritis that vets usually see during the colder months. Our advice to owners is to call their local vet for advice in the first instance if their dog shows any of these symptoms. If your dog is ill, we'd encourage minimising contact with other dogs until veterinary advice has been sought.

"BVA is also asking vets to report any cases and controls via a questionnaire on the Small Animal Veterinary Surveillance Network (SAVSNET) website, to help researchers build a clearer picture of the outbreak and to investigate if the spike is part of normal seasonal variation or if a specific virus or bacteria is in play."

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NEWS FROM LOCAL CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

Ramblers enjoy the calm between the storms

AFTER the mayhem of recent high winds and heavy rainfall, Penarth and District's last two walks passed without a hitch, firstly when a group of 22 walkers joined Geraint for a delightful local walk beginning in Dinas Powys.

In bright sunshine they set off over Cadoxton Brook, through the Millfields and the beech wood into the muddy wooded Cwm George where Jelly Ear fungus was spotted on a tree. Following a farm track and re-crossing the river, Cwrt-yr-Ala Road led them uphill towards The Lawns and into meadows, over rickety stiles and uphill past Coed y Ddylluan onto firmer open meadows.

More fields brought them towards Leckwith Woods for morning break before a slippery ascent through the woods to Leckwith (or Cock Hill) with its stunning views out over Cardiff Bay and the Bristol Channel.

Following the road to Leckwith Road and on past St James' Church, now converted into two dwellings, they passed the common and set off downhill to enter muddy woodland, before boggy meadows led to Michaelston-le-Pit. Following a visit to the Church of St Michael with its delightful carved lych gate, they crossed the river for the last time to slither through thick wet mud on its banks on their journey back to the start, but at least it stayed dry.

Following Storm Ciara, seven walkers plus Ramakin the dog joined Joy and Biddy at Wenvoe Church on an overcast but dry morning for a local walk of seven miles. They set off through the village, climbing up Pound Lane, lit up by miniature daffodils, to enter Wenvoe Wood.

A few dark clouds gathered overhead, dumping a short sharp shower of hailstones on the group as they made their way towards Coed Nant Bran and, having emerged from the pretty woodland, recently cleared by volunteers from Valeways, the sun came out and the clouds parted.

A strong headwind hit them as they tramped the grassy path beside ploughed fields to St Nicholas, where they made for the church in order to take shelter for morning break in the porch.

After viewing the tomb of the Cory family from Dyffryn in the churchyard they continued by track towards Homri, deviating into lush green meadows overlooking the beautiful Ely Valley, bathed in lovely winter sunshine. They climbed to the Natural Burial Ground at Old Coedarhydyglyn with its wonderful sense of space, beauty and peace, before crossing an old stone stile to journey to the A48. Crossing by means of a bridge to the Downs, a narrow muddy track led them past the tall TV mast to the hamlet of Twyn yr Odyn, for the descent through the Wenvoe orchid field back into woodland, where one last field led into Wenvoe village.

On February 22, an eight-mile moderate/hard walk to Fan Hir will leave Cogan Leisure Centre at 9am (No dogs except for assistance ones); call Clive on 029 2065 4156.

On February 23, meet 9.30am at Cogan for a seven-mile easy/moderate walk taking in Clytha Folly and Bettws Newydd Church; call Jan/John on 01446 418514.

On February 25, a 12-mile moderate walk in the Machen area will leave Cogan at 9.30am; call Alison on 07717 820 012.

Wear suitable clothing, preferably boots and carry waterproofs, food and drinks. Some degree of fitness is required and if you are in any doubt, then please contact the leader for advice. For up to date information log onto *www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com* or follow on Facebook. Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

Joy Strangward

An Artist's life at Dinas Powys WI

WE probably all have our own idea of an artist's life and I suspect that it has little to do with business.

Artist Nick Rees from Sully certainly opened the eyes of members of Dinas Powys WI to the life of an artist.

With great humour and humility, Nick both entertained and informed us about the life that has evolved since he gave up working for a bank and succumbed to his passion for painting. His sheer dedication has enabled him to become that rare thing, a successful professional artist.

Nick's beautiful seascapes inspired by the Pembrokeshire coast and his adored north Brittany have brought their rewards. Nick now sells as many original paintings as he has time to execute.

His quiet contemplation of the sea in all its moods and his long-time fascination for boats, have turned his passion into a fulfilling lifestyle.

A mixture of self-indulgence and hard work have brought their own rewards.

The next meeting will be on Monday, March 16 when the topic will be Gardening - a talk about Dyffryn Gardens.

Dinas Powys WI meet on the third Monday of the month at 7.30pm at the Murchfield Community Centre, Sunnycroft Lane, CF64 4QQ.

Visitors and new members always welcome.

A busy and varied year for Southerndown WI

RECENTLY, the ladies of Southerndown WI celebrated a very significant birthday with a special coffee morning at Southerndown Church.

Our oldest and much-loved member, Joan Kinsbrook, had reached the grand age of 100. Joan, her family, and many of our members came to share a memorable morning.

We were able to look at old photograph albums, and talk about old times, when Joan would organise plays, quizzes and fun activities. She stood up and talked to us all for several minutes – you could hear a pin drop! She asked us to come and entertain her at her home in the near future. Plans are afoot to do so!

We have had a busy programme of events during 2019. There was an outing to the Hotter shoe shop in Cardiff and a visit to the Blue Diamond Garden Centre (with refreshments). In September, we held a World War 2 evening – some of us wore 1940s style uniforms and members shared memories of that time.

In October, as Halloween was imminent, a storyteller in a Victorian frock, Deborah John, regaled us with Ghostly Tales. November came and Rob Kenny gave a wonderful account of how a medieval ship was discovered near Newport.

At our Christmas meeting, we listened, spellbound, to children from St. Brides Major Primary School as they sang like angels.

Many thanks to staff at the school! Afterwards we all sang carols before tucking in to some welcome food!

Our latest theatre trips have been to the panto in Swansea and *The King and I* at theWMC in Cardiff.

LB

Celebrating 70 years of Mynydd Cynffig WI

MYNYDD Cynffig WI celebrated our 70th anniversary in the usual venue, The Talbot Center Kenfig Hill (between 2pm to 4.30pm).

WI business over, we celebrated with a beautiful cake provided by one of our members, a glass of wine, and lots of laughs. Next month we're all going out for a meal to celebrate our anniversary as well.

Members are looking forward to the next 70 years: but seriously, the WI offers lots of benefits – from trips and courses, to a chance to catch up and have a chat with friends. Our speakers this month were two ladies from Women Seeking Sanctuary in Cardiff, their talk was very enlightening.

Next month we have Mr Robert Taylor, whose talk is on Stormy Down airfield; with lots of us having relatives and friends who worked there we are all looking forward to it. We have a talk each month on a variety of topics. You are bound to enjoy them, and we laugh a lot and talk a lot! Tea and coffee all round with biscuits finishes our meeting – we hope to see you soon.

CC

Travels in Shetland for Boverton WI

MEMBERS were welcomed to the monthly meeting by vice president Diane who introduced the speaker for the evening, Rev Phillip Morris.

Phillip and his wife Sheila had filmed their travels in Shetland and Unst. He explained that Shetland was a 14-hour ferry ride from the mainland and Unst was the northernmost island off Britain. We saw a landscape full of contrasts, rich in history from the Vikings to the present day.

Shetland was ruled by the Danes until they mortgaged it to Scotland in the 15th century. The fishing industry has been the island's main livelihood for centuries but the great herring boom in the early 20th century lifted islanders out of poverty. It was a pleasure to see the many sights accompanied by traditional Shetland music.

Following the presentation, business items were discussed: the main ones being the celebratory meal on Thursday, February 21 and the Glamorgan Federation Annual Meeting in Port Talbot on April 20.

Boverton WI meets on the second Thursday each month at 7.30pm in the Llantonian Hall. All are welcome.

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NEWS FROM LOCAL CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

Highlight Park WI's latest meeting

AT the weekly knit and natter, there was a lot of nattering – maybe not quite as much knitting!

In our first meeting of 2020 we welcomed Helen Latimer, Puppets Cymru who gave us an insight into how she became involved with puppets, having studied both art and design. Helen makes most of her puppets herself: she works with school children and designs and makes the puppets to suit the story or message she is delivering. She runs puppet making workshops and showed us how a stick, pipe cleaner, piece of material and a little paint can, as if by magic, become a puppet.

She demonstrated how easy it is to become focused on and interact with the puppet and forget there is a human behind it! Thank you Helen.

On January 15 we had our first theatre trip of the year, a trip to Millenium Centre in the Bay to see a wonderful performance of Rogers and Hammerstein's *The King and I*; everybody was humming and nodding their heads along to the addictive lyrics.

Travelling by coach to Cardiff Bay was a plus and then we dispersed to take lunch in different venues. We all met up later and had an enjoyable afternoon in the cold winter time. Thanks to Sue for arranging this event.

At our craft afternoon, busy bees were making 'Green Hearts' to show the love for the environment and share it among all WI members, and everyone everywhere. Many green hearts were fashioned from material in every shade of green imaginable and decorated with ribbons, buttons, jewels and stuffed with kapok. A display of them is on show at the Highlight Park Community Hall.

At our knit and natter on January 30 we welcomed our youngest visitor to date, three week old Gracie May, Sally's great-grand daughter. February will see us on a visit to City Hall in Cardiff with afternoon tea and in March, we plan a visit and tour of Cardiff Castle.

Meetings are held at The Highlight Park Community Hall, Barry on Tuesday afternoons from 2pm – 4pm on the first and third of each month; and Thursdays each week at 2pm for knit and natter and craft.

DB

Sully U3A hears a Jewish family history

AT Sully U3A's February meeting, Stanley Soffa revealed the history of Jewish immigration into the UK and Wales, and delved into his own family's personal experiences.

Stanley's father's family came to the UK from Russia in the late 1800s, settling in the densely populated Jewish area of the East End of London. Like many others there, they worked in the tailoring industry. Later, his grandparents left for Cardiff where they set up in business as drapers in City Road. They Jewish community there were served by various synagogues and the cemetery at Highfield Road. But war brought insecurity, with Stanley's family being required to register as aliens in 1916 and again in 1939.

The population of Jews in Wales is now less than one tenth of its size in the 1950s, but their family stories are being collected by the Jewish History Association of South Wales, and many of them can be accessed online by searching The People's Collection Wales.

The next monthly meeting will take the form of a 'Musical Interlude', on Thursday, March 12 at 2pm in the Old School, Sully. For further information on Sully U3A and its activity groups, visit u3asites.org.uk/sully/home, or email membership@sullyu3a.co.uk.

Busy times at full capacity Barry U3A

THE Barry U3A Book Club is currently at full capacity with the maximum number of 10 members.

The club works with Barry Library, who arrange for them to have 10 copies of one book so that they can all read it and come to the monthly meeting with views about it. Some have been hugely enjoyable, others have not gone down well at all, and there are some where the members have been divided.

In any event, members have been reading authors they might otherwise never have tried and which opened them up to different ideas. Anyone can set up a book club and would find Barry library very helpful. If anyone wishes to join Barry U3A and set up another book club, they would be more than welcome.

The speaker for at the February meeting was Gavin Davies, whose main interest is military history, although his stories are rather more eclectic.

He is a member of the Western Front Association so has a lot of knowledge about World War One, but he is also very interested in the American Civil War. He spoke on five different topics at the meeting; his first two topics were introduced in a sort of 'Only Connect' context where he gave several different clues and then the last piece tied it all together. On a completely different tack, he told members the story of the Royal Baccarat Scandal involving the Prince of Wales in 1890; one about Mrs Leslie James, probably the last woman to be hanged in Wales in 1907, and finished with a tale about the family and home life of Grigori Rasputin, from a different perspective to the usual 'mad monk' theme.

The next meeting will be on Monday, March 2 at 2pm in Bethel Baptist Church, Harbour Road on the roundabout in Park Crescent. *Anyone interested in joining Barry U3A should call Christine on 01446 701537 or just turn up on the day.*

CD

Cowbridge & Llanblethian Women's Fellowship

SILKA Casey, a successful south Wales fashion model, came along this month and shared with us her memories and experiences of work in the fashion industry, over the last 40 years.

Initially trained as an infant school teacher, Silka described the thrill of being approached in the 1970s by scouts from the Lucie Clayton modelling agency. Since then, she has managed to combine her two careers – as a supply teacher and a fashion model for companies like Jaeger and Aquascutum. Alongside models like Twiggy, Silka has been selected to model Marks & Spencer's fashion ranges featuring elegant or quite trendy clothing, well suited to the more mature age and size group – many in her audience could certainly identify with that!

Women's Fellowship meets in the church hall, Llanblethian on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm. Just come along and join us. If you want to know more about our events and activities for 2020, call either Hazel Coates (01443 226412) or Georgina Magnay (01446 774335).

MJ

Nelson and Lady Emma at Barry Men's Forum

AT this week's meeting of Forum our guest was the television presenter Trevor Fishlock, who gave the 40 members an account of Horatio Nelson and his love affair with Lady Emma Hamilton.

Nelson met up with Emma in 1793 at Naples where her husband Sir William Hamilton was serving at the British Embassy. Emma was seven years younger than Horatio, but by 1798 they developed a very close relationship. Nelson's naval career took him to Egypt, France, and Denmark fighting battles. Following his death Emma applied for financial help from the government, but this was declined and she died penniless in January 1815, a few months short of her 50th birthday.

Nelson's daughter with Emma, named Horatia, married a clergyman and had 10 children, having settled at Nelson's ancestral home in Norfolk.

Forum meet every Thursday at 9.45am in the hall of Holy Trinity Church, Aberystwyth Crescent, Barry. Further information from Mac Tanner on 01446 743455. Paul Gilbertson.

It's been a busy time for Rhoose WI

RHOOSE WI have experienced some very entertaining meetings over the last few months.

In November Only Menopause Aloud choir made the community hall resound with a wonderful selection of music and songs. Audience participation was encouraged and everyone enjoyed taking part in producing a 'thunderstorm' with the choir.

Then in December the Christmas and birthday party was celebrated with a delicious buffet and members were entertained by the WI's own amateur dramatic group, who performed a pantomime based loosely on Cinderella. Also in December several members attended the annual Heritage Group carol service, hosted this time by Llantwit Major WI. As always this was a good evening and an excellent way to start the festive season.

A new year of meetings commenced in January when quizzes were held and members partook of 'nibbles'. In February, members were greatly entertained by John Sheen who talked about 'The Happiest Days' and regaled everyone with memories of his school days, which he interspersed with appropriate poems and much laughter filled the hall. Our next meeting will be on March 5 at 7.30pm when an eisteddfod will be held. Visitors are always welcome to come and join us.

Could *you* help out at Monday Club?

THE Monday Club started in Cowbridge, offering a social monthly evening for adults with a learning disability, around 1975.

This was a time when places like Hensol Castle 'hospital' were closing, and those housed there were emerging into 'care in the community'. It was also a time when Cowbridge's population was expanding and more people were forming organisations in the town. Some of the club's helpers from the 1970s are still involved today, so it is not hard to guess their ages: a younger generation of helpers is urgently needed – please do come along and try us out!

We have 17 lively club members at the moment, coming in from not just Cowbridge and Llantwit Major, but from as far afield as Barry, Llanharry, Bridgend. Each needs more than one helper, having very individual difficulties; it is heart-warming to see how everyone finds his or her place at the club, taking care of each other, and sharing the fun.

Shy members who hover in the doorway for months gradually become integrated. We try to ensure that every month we offer something to draw people in and include everyone as much as we can. Over the last year, we have had games (organised by Rotary Club); flower arranging, a 'walkabout' treasure hunt (from the Lions Club), keep fit, a visit with food to Warren Mill Farm Park, papier mache crafts (decorating a tree for the Christmas Tree Festival), a Christmas party complete with magician.

We ran a stall at the Lions' May Fair to boost our funds, sent a coachload to the Bob Cook games in Swindon (a Lions event), enjoyed a garden party in Trerhyngyll with music by Half Tidy on a lovely summer's evening, and were given a wonderful concert by male choir 'Cor Meibion y Machlud'. In May, our helpers were honoured with a Service To the Community award from Cowbridge Town Council. The annual mystery coach trip in June was to the Brecon Beacons and then to Llancaiach Fawr, with its enthralling tales of Tudor history.

This year has seen the opening of a second house in Cowbridge where some of our members are in supported living; four members now live independently in and around the town, with support, and this seems to work really well.

We welcome the enthusiastic help we have each month from some of the school's sixth formers, many of whom plan to undertake medical or nursing training. We could not cope without the transport help, and indeed all sorts of other support, from our local Lions' organisation. The Monday Club (supported by Mencap) is run entirely by volunteers and we constantly seek funding, so we are very grateful in this respect over the past year to Cowbridge United Charities, Cowbridge Town Council, the Masonic Emerald Lodge, and the Rotary and Lions organisations.

This year, we are one of three local organisations chosen for some Co-op funding next autumn (if people nominate us when they buy Co-op products!).

We keep trying to spread the word about our club. Although we have never been short of members, it is so important that families and carers know of our existence. Please everyone, take an interest in us, and do get in touch if you can offer any help.

Great Big Daffodil hits the road again!

Behind every daffodil, there's a story – and following the success of last year's inaugural tour, the Great Big Daffodil will be on the road again this March, bringing people together to share the stories of their loved ones.

It's a sad fact that we don't have enough chances in life to stop and pay tribute to the people that are special to us – both the loved ones we've lost and those that are still here.

So, during the Great Daffodil Appeal 2020, once again we'd like to invite you to write the story behind your daffodil pin on the Great Big Daffodil's giant petals when it comes to your nearest city.

This year the Great Big Daffodil is visiting eight towns and cities across the UK, and it will be in south Wales on three dates:

Thursday, February 27, 9am–5.30pm, Cwmbran Shopping Centre, NP44 1PB;

Friday, February 28, 9.30am–8pm and Saturday, February 29, 9.30am–7pm – Cardiff – St David's Shopping Centre , CF10 2EF

We hope you will join us to share your tributes, memories and photos of a loved one or a special moment from their end of life on the petals of our seven-foot Great Big Daffodil. You'll also have the chance to donate and receive one of our iconic daffodil pins. By donating and wearing a daffodil pin you will be paying tribute to a loved one as well as helping Marie Curie provide the best possible end of life experience for people living with a terminal illness and their families.

If you're not able to join us on the tour, you can still take part by sharing your personal pictures and heartfelt messages on social media and tagging @ mariecurieuk.

As the UK's leading charity for people living with a terminal illness, we hope the Great Big Daffodil will create somewhere for people to take a moment to reflect and remember and pay tribute to those that have been special to them.

By encouraging the public to share their memories, we want to create a national picture of the moments that matter most during the end of life. At the end of the tour, these will then be curated and added to this page - so remember to check back when the tour is finished.

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Marie Curie Cancer Care

AM hosts launch of charity's 2020 appeal

ON February 5, Vale AM Jane Hutt hosted the launch of the Marie Curie Great Daffodil Appeal in the Senedd.

Marie Curie raises over a quarter of a million pounds each year in Wales through the Daffodil Appeal and every penny raised in Wales stays in Wales. Jane also paid tribute to Sam Clements from the Vale of Glamorgan, who recently won a national award for the exceptional care he provides to those living with terminal illness.

Jane Hutt said: "It was wonderful to be able to host the launch again this year, now my eighth year of hosting! The work Marie Curie does is incredibly important and it is great to be able to see the efforts of all the staff and volunteers.

"It was also great to be joined by members of the Barry and District Soroptimists on the day."

For more information about Marie Curie and the work it does visit the charity's website

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NEWS FROM LOCAL CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

Stand-in speaker at Probus Club of Penarth

THE Probus Club of Penarth met on February 18 when one of the members, Colin Evans, stood in at very short notice in the absence of the planned guest speaker.

Colin spoke in a very interesting and jovial manner about his experience of National Service in the RAF during the late 1950s, when he was posted as an officer to the Innsworth Station in Gloucestershire. As a member of the station rugby team, they won the RAF Cup on two successive years. During the three years he served in the RAF, he got married and enjoyed a very pleasant services lifestyle. His talk was very much appreciated by all the club members.

The club will hold its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, March 17 followed by a talk by Trevor Fishlock entitled: 'Horatio's Holiday'; and then a lunch at the Seashore Grill in Sully.

New members are always welcome to join Penarth Probus, which is open to retired and semi-retired men of any age. The meetings are held every third Tuesday of the month at the Sports and Social Club, South Road, Sully at 10.30am with guest speakers on varied topics. Light refreshments are provided and meetings finish before 12 noon. There are occasional visits to places of interest and lunches at various times of the year. Anyone interested in joining Probus should contact Gareth Price on 02920 532 793.

It's all Chinese to members of Cowbridge U3A

GEOFF Henderson of Porthcawl U3A visited Cowbridge U3A recently, to give a presentation on the Chinese way of life and behaviour, concentrating on the factors which have influenced China over the last two centuries.

The country has a long history of invention (the oldest written language, gunpowder, even the wheelbarrow), philosophy and trade. In 1830, China was responsible for 30% of the world's cumulative gross domestic product (GDP), exporting tea, silk, porcelain and textiles mainly in return for silver bullion.

Next meeting will feature a talk entitled: 'A Foreign Student's World', by UWC students, at 2pm on Wednesday, March 11 in Cowbridge Town Hall. Visitors welcome; there is a small fee, which includes refreshments. www.u3asites.org.uk/cowbridge.

St Donat's Memory Cafe

ST Donat's Memory Café is a dementia café that is hosted on the Atlantic College grounds.

Free of charge, as it is funded by Atlantic College it is primarily student run, but is also supervised by the college's staff; and was inspired by the students' own experiences. Sindre Carlsen, the main organiser has said that he, together with his fellow students, want to be "a light in the day for people who may share some of the same experiences as our own family members."

St Donat's Memory Café has now been up and running since last autumn and has been very successful with participants from Llantwit, Cowbridge and St.Donat's. It is serving as a social arena for people with dementia and their carers, and encourages everyone to: 'Come along to chat over some coffee, tea, cakes and lighthearted entertainment!'

The café has a different theme for each session, and past sessions include a Norwegian waffle event, Beatles sing-along and arts and crafts. The café allows people with dementia to continue with activities they love and 'regulars' have described the café as a fun place with many nice people.

One of the volunteers, Daniel Faradonbeh said: "We aim to make a positive change in this community, and truly believe that we can help even more people than we already have. The café runs from 2.30pm to 3.30pm on the first and third Wednesday of every month, so meet at the Atlantic College reception at 2.30pm for a good time!"

If you're interested or have any inquiries, you can find the Café on Facebook: St Donat's Memory Café. Alternatively, contact the café organiser, Sindre, at: sindre.carlsen@gmail.com.

Cadet Warrant Officer James Jelinski retires

CADET Warrant Officer James Jelinski (20) of 372 (Barry) Squadron recently retired as an Air Cadet after seven action-packed years with the Royal Air Force Air Cadets.

James has risen through the ranks to the highest rank of Cadet Warrant Officer, and his career has included flying in military aircraft, gliding, sport, shooting, expeditions, leadership courses, adventurous training, attending camps in the UK and overseas as well as fundraising for the Royal Air Forces Association and numerous other community organisations.

The highlight of James's career was successfully completing the 100-mile, four day Nijmegen March in the Netherland while carrying 10 kilograms of equipment, and his appointment as Lord Lieutenant's Cadet in 2019. James said: "I have really enjoyed my ATC career. I would encourage all the air cadets to grasp the amazing opportunities which are available to them, especially on such a busy squadron. I am looking forward to becoming an adult instructor and giving something back to the next generation of Air Cadets."

Squadron Leader Jason Horton, Commanding Officer 372 Squadron, paid tribute to James for his years of dedicated service to the Squadron saying: "James has risen to the challenges available to him; he has worked hard and gained many new skills, experiences and confidence which will stand him in good stead for the future. I am looking forward to James becoming an instructor and passing on his skills and knowledge to my air cadets."

ABOVE: James Jelinski, second on the right, in front of an F16 fighter jet

The Air Cadets are now looking forward to an action-packed training programme including flying, gliding, shooting, adventurous training, sports, field craft training, the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, summer camps, air shows and overseas visits.

If you have a spirit for adventure, 372 (Barry) Squadron has vacancies for boys and girls between 12 (in school year 8) - 17 years old. The Squadron parade on Mondays and Wednesdays 7pm - 9.30pm, behind Adams Funeral Parlour; for more information about joining or the Royal Air Force Air Cadets email oc.372@aircadets.org or visit www.372squadron.org.uk.

Retired health worker recognised for charity work in East African town

A RETIRED health worker has been recognised for her development work in East Africa.

Deana Owen, from Bridgend, received an award from the Bridgend Association of Volunteer of Organisations (BAVO) for her "outstanding" work in Zambia which was presented to her by Ogmore AM Huw Irranca-Davies.

Deana was given the award for her work in the Monze area of Zambia at an official ceremony at the Heronston Hotel in Bridgend at the end of last year.

The 73-year-old said: "When I retired in 2011, I had no idea what I would do with my time but the decision was taken out of my hands when I revisited the Monze area of Southern Zambia where I had worked as a young nurse.

"I saw children, many AIDS orphans and they were all very poor.

"Their school was no better than a broken down cow shed but they were so keen to learn. When I was asked to help I knew I couldn't say "no".

Deana said she realised that she had to forge close links with people living in Monze, and she joined forces with a partner organisation called Zambia Women and Girls Foundation based in the small town – she has worked with them ever since.

With the support of Bridgend Quakers, Deana set up a charity in 2013 called Friends of Monze, which to date has raised around £400,000, to ensure money raised in Bridgend is sent directly to Monze.

Seven schools have been built and equipped which were fully funded by the charity – they are now providing education for 2,000 children.

However, due to the disastrous effects of climate change there were no rains in January last year – resulting in no harvest in April, which has not happened since 1981 and is a devastating blow.

People are grubbing around for wild roots and fruit and the supplies have been exhausted and there is almost no work. Desperate people walk for hours to find work then walk home with a little food for their families.

Deana, who is now appealing for help to tackle starvation in the area, said: "Time is short and the need is great. More money is urgently needed. The charity has set a target of raising £25,000 to continue the feeding programme as long as it is needed. I promise every pound you give will go directly to the children and the school communities in Monze. How can we say no?"

More information about Friends of Monze, is available on www.friendsofmonze.org.

Above is Deana with AM Huw Irranca-Davies. Right she is with the school's headmaster

Out & About with The GEM

Writers' circle members make their debut on Radio Wales

MEMBERS of Llantwit Major Writing Circle recently made their radio debut when BBC Wales came to visit them at their base in the town.

The group's founder, Kath Giblin,told The GEM: "Radio Wales got in touch and came along to meet the group at the Heritage Centre, in Llantwit Major Town Hall a week before Valentine's Day.

"The members, who are all local to Llantwit, were invited to talk about their love of writing and to share some of the beautiful love poems they had composed. The recording was then featured on Royal Noble's Valentine's special on Sunday, February 9.

"It was such a great programme. Everyone sounded so professional and it was beautifully edited."

She continued: "At our next meeting on Wednesday, February 26, we are very lucky to be joined by the popular children's writer, Jon Blake, author of over 60 books.

"Jon was featured in 'Wales on Sunday' last weekend and his latest Thimble Monkey Super Star book 'Thimble Wonka Bonkers' has been chosen as Welsh Libraries Book of the Month. "We very much look forward to hearing tips from Jon on how to be a successful writer.

"Anyone interested in taking up the pen is welcome to join our group and can get in touch via our Facebook page 'Llantwit Major Writing Circle' or they can contact me at kath_ giblin@hotmail.com (Numbers are limited due to the size of the venue, so please get in touch if you want to join us)."

History open day

ALL are welcome to the Bonvilston history open day at the Reading Room on Saturday, February 29.

Starting at 10.30am there will be a display of photographs, together with projected images from the collection.

A re-originated Tithe map will be available to view and there will be a facility to search a range of local records.

Refreshments will be available all day with soup served from noon. All funds raised will be in aid of St Mary's Church Tower, which is very much in need of restoration.

We will be forming a local history group so if anyone is interested in joining please do come along.

More information can be found on the Bonvilston Village Facebook page and on the village website.

Email details of your events to editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

What's on in your area and where?

Cowbridge Monday Club

Every March we hold our annual dinner in the Bear Hotel, and this will come around again on Monday, March 9 (from 7pm).

So if anyone would like to join us, for a three-course meal with some lively entertainment, please contact Susan Edwards on 01446 772788 as soon as possible.

Arts and Crafts in Llantwit

Llantwit Major Art & Craft group will meet on Friday, February 21 at 7.30pm at Llantonian Hall.

Helen Latimer from Puppet Theatre Wales will talk about designing,making and using puppets. This will be an interesting insight into the world of puppetry.

Visitors are welcome.

The Chatty Cafe

Chatty Café, a friendly natter over a cup of tea, will be at Llantwit Major library on Saturday, February 22 from 11.30am - 12.30pm.

Chatty Café is part of 'The Great Get Together' initiated by the Jo Cox Foundation to help people who are suffering loneliness.

Friends of Barry Beaches

Friends of Barry Beaches will hold their monthly beach clean at Whitmore Bay, Barry Island on Sunday, February 23 at 3pm and volunteers should meet near Marco's Café on the prom.

Volunteers are asked to keep an eye on the weather forecast for that weekend and wear suitable footwear, and FOBB will provide the litter pickers and bags. Children are welcome, but we ask that they be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Cowbridge U3A

Interested in joining? Newly-joined? Long-standing member? Come and meet committee members for a friendly chat over coffee from 11am on Monday, February 24 in the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge. All welcome.

The Lift Group

The Lift Group offers friendship and support to those affected by breast cancer, and meet in Cowbridge once a fortnight, either between 10am and 1pm for relaxation therapies or 2pm to 4pm for other activities such as speakers or trips out.

Come and join us, bring a friend, for friendly, supportive and confidential get-togethers. If you know anyone who might benefit from this group, call Anne on 01446 772843 or Judith on 01446 794176. We look forward to seeing you.

Valeways guided walks

On Wednesday, February 26 the Coffee Shop Strollers of Cosmeston will meet outside the visitor centre at Cosmeston at 10.30am.

The same day at 2.30pm the Coffee Shop Strollers of Llantwit Major meet at Llantwit Major town hall.

On Thursday, February 27 walk seven miles 'Over the Sea'; meet at The Captain's Wife, Sully CF64 5UG at 10am.

On Thursday, February 27 a Walk for Carers: meet at Barry Island railway station at 10.30am.

Barry At War

On Thursday, February 27 at 7pm at Barry Island Station a special presentation organised by the Barry at War Group is 'Front Line War Art from Afghanistan' by Dan Peterson. Free admission.

Social contact in Highlight Park

If you know someone living alone who might enjoy a little company, please let them know the dates of the Highlight Park Cuppa.

Men and women are welcome, because everyone can feel they need a little company now and again no matter where they live. Don't be shy, we will make you welcome.

Our regulars enjoy chatting and look forward to completing a quiz sheet, having a cuppa and company; we are reserving a 'men's table' where men can meet regularly, chat, play cards; don't stay at home alone – come and join us.

Men might find they have common interests and meet with us regularly, or in time develop a local men's network or club!

Women may wish to join our local Women's Institute – you are all very welcome.

Highlight Park Cuppa opening times: we're open every second and fourth Monday of the month at Highlight Park Community Centre, Stirling Road, Barry (next door to Tesco) 2.30pm - 3.30pm February 24 and March 9. If you have any queries, contact Ada, group coordinator on 01446 722412.

New Carers Group in Barry

Do you care for a friend or family member who is living with dementia?

Would you like to meet other carers over a cuppa for informal support and a chat? Come along to our monthly carers group on Thursday, February 27 from 10am – 11.30am at Senior Health Cafe/Information Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry; the group is facilitated by Alzheimer's Society. For more information email: dementiafriendlybarry@outlook.com.

Cowbridge Gardening Club

The next meeting of the Cowbridge Gardening Club will be on Thursday, February 27 at 7pm in the Lesser Hall when Kevin Thomas will be speaking on 'Spring in the garden'. New members and visitors welcome.

Cor Meibion Y Machlud / Cor Ysgol Gymraeg Dewi Sant

In celebration of St David, Cowbridge male voice choir Cor Meibion Y Machlud will sing at St Illtud's Church in Llantwit Major on Friday, February 28 at 7.30pm.

Joining them will be the choir of the Llantwit Welsh medium school, Ysgol Gymraeg Dewi Sant, with the evening rounded off by the choirs and congregation joining forces in the singing of your favourite Welsh hymns. Tickets available from Nickleby's Bookshop in Llantwit Major, David Barnes Dry Cleaners in Cowbridge, St Illtud's Church itself, or on the door on the night. Come and celebrate our patron saint.

Quiz Night in Llantwit Major Library

We welcome the return of another Quiz Night and the next is scheduled for Friday, February 28.

Teams of four, or individuals and, either way, the cost is a very reasonable £2 per person. We're under starter's orders from 7pm and may the best team win! Make sure of your place at a table by ringing 01446-792700 or popping in to the library. Booking in advance is required, and a bar will be available on the night.

Rhoose Community Cinema

Rhoose Community Cinema cordially invites you to join us on Saturday, February 29 to the grand motion picture that is Downton Abbey (PG).

Doors open 6:45pm, screen time 7:15pm; for further information call Jo on 07986 907151.

LS Lowry is Coming to Llantwit Major Library

A portrait of the artist LS Lowry and the relationship with his mother, who tried to dissuade him from pursuing his passion. Tickets available from Llantwit Major library now. See you on the March 3.

Llynfi Valley Historical Society

The topic for the March meeting, to be held on Tuesday, March 3 is 'Swansea Castle' and will be given by Mr Ray Savage. Non-members are welcomed to attend.

Copies of our latest book 'The Bowrington Robbery' are still available from the secretary Mr Neil Perry.

World Day of Prayer 2020

Praying with Zimbabwe: Rise! Take up your mat and walk on Friday, March 6 at 2pm.

World Day of Prayer is an international inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world, and this year the service has been prepared by the women of Zimbabwe.

The service will be held in St Cadoc's Catholic Church, Town Mill Road, Cowbridge, followed by refreshments. Further details from Shena Sarjeant on 01446 774703.

Cowbridge and District Flower Arrangers

On March 4 the meeting will feature Wendy Davies from Carmarthenshire, who will be our demonstrator for the evening.

Her subject will be 'Let's get Fresh' at the Lesser Hall at 7.30pm.

KPC charity golf event seeks golfers!

KPC Youth & Community are holding their annual charity Golf Day on Friday, June 26 at the Grove Golf Club, Porthcawl.

Entry includes coffee on arrival, golf fees and a buffet meal following the round of golf, and to be part of our prize presentation. We still have tee-offs available from 10am – 2pm – so please come along for a great day's golf and the chance to support a local charity!

Sponsorship is also sought for raffle/auction prizes or £50 to sponsor a hole; if you can support us that would be really appreciated. For team entry forms/more details contact Alison on 01656 749219;

Get your garden working for the environment

With Annie Paine

PLANT Llantwit's new monthly column aims to help GEM readers towards 'greener' gardening.

Whether you have a large garden or a couple of tubs, you can do your bit to increase biodiversity and lower your carbon footprint.

People call rainforests the "lungs" of our planet, but right here in the Vale we can surround ourselves with plants that produce vital oxygen, while slurping up carbon dioxide.

This can be in our gardens, inside our homes, or you could join Plant Llantwit's tree-planting events in shared spaces.

We'll be sharing money-saving and labour-saving tips – because wildlife often benefits when we do less! Neglected gardens, full of brambles and nettles, may teem with birds, frogs, butterflies and hedgehogs, while manicured lawns and neat borders can be wildlife no-go areas.

So this column aims to encourage gardens we can enjoy, while making them welcoming spaces for our fellow-creatures!

Let's start with some greener-gardening principles:

Don't be too tidy.

Living things need somewhere to live, feed, and breed, so – make a log-pile, leave some leaves in a corner, and let some of your dandelions flower, to feed the bees.

Plant a wide variety – flowers for pollinators, food plants for butterflies and moths, seeds and berries for birds.

Avoid pesticides and herbicides. For future generations to enjoy the wildlife that we grew up with, encourage friendly beasts, that in turn discourage foes. Children will love exploring the mini-beasts among the plants and soil. And ultimately human life depends on the biodiversity that we are rapidly destroying.

Compost as much as possible.

Share and swap seeds and plants with friends and neighbours, so you'll be growing plants that suit our local climate and soil.

Avoid digging: small critturs in the soil need air spaces and drainage, and not being chopped up. Let the earthworms do all the hard work of turning over the soil!

Buy peat-free compost. Destroying peatbogs not only harms valuable habitats, but also causes enormous amounts of carbon dioxide to be released.

Learn to save seeds and take cuttings from your favourite plants – so much cheaper than visiting garden centres.

Grow some food! Even if it's just herbs on a sunny windowsill, sprouting seeds, or a beautiful Rosemary in a tub by your door, it all saves food miles, and improves your meals.

All these points will be covered and expanded in future articles.

Meanwhile, some topical tips for February and early March:

Cold, wet and windy days are perfect for planning ahead and ordering seeds from a really good company like The Real Seed Company.

Prune autumn-fruiting raspberry canes back to soil level.

Sow winter salads, such as Mizuna.

If you have made compost, spread it on growing spaces, so that the earthworms can incorporate it into the soil. Cover with plastic or old carpet to warm the soil and reduce weeds, till you're ready to sow.

Fill a birdbath (or tray) with clean water, for birds to drink and bathe, especially if the weather freezes. Keep bird-feeders topped up, as the birds will depend on them.

Finally: get a good book from the library, or order from Nickleby's: 'Grow Your Own Vegetables' by Joy Larkcom is recommended.

Formed by local people in response to the growing global climate emergency, Plant Llantwit is aiming to plant more trees, hedgerows and other plants in Llantwit Major and surrounding area. For more information and membership (adults £1, under-16s free), visit Plant Llantwit on Facebook or email plantllantwit@gmail.com.

Just Go! Holidays

UK BREAKS

Reader travel

Tindle Newspapers

By Coach from Bridgend & Cardiff

ISLE OF WIGHT
Royals & Rails

Departing Monday 11 May

From the striking natural majesty of The Needles to the peaceful inland villages, the Isle of Wight is a haven of old-fashioned charm and inspiring scenery. With elegant resort towns, spotless beaches and miles of unspoilt coastline, it's a timeless destination.

Your break includes
- ✔ Return coach travel and ferry crossings **from Bridgend & Cardiff**
- ✔ 4 nights at the Burlington Hotel, Sandown with dinner & breakfast
- ✔ Entertainment some evenings
- ✔ Heritage train journey on the Isle of Wight Steam Railway
- ✔ Excursions to Osborne House, Cowes & Ryde

5 Days by Coach *only* **£299**
Single Supplement £60

NORTHUMBERLAND
Holy Island & Alnwick Castle

Departing Sunday 19 Jul

Ancient castles, vast sandy beaches and rolling moorland: the rugged scenery and seascapes of Northumberland are spectacular and some of the most unspoilt of coastal Britain. On this break we also explore Hadrian's Wall and the Holy Island of Lindisfarne.

Your break includes
- ✔ Return coach travel **from Bridgend & Cardiff**
- ✔ 4 nights at the Jurys Inn, Newcastle Gateshead Quays with dinner & breakfast
- ✔ Guided tour of Hadrian's Wall
- ✔ Excursions to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne, Alnwick Castle, Hadrian's Wall & Chesters Fort

Optional excursion to Durham (£12pp)

5 Days by Coach *only* **£349**
Single Supplement £60

HISTORIC DURHAM
Beamish & Captain Cook's Whitby

Departing Thursday 23 Jul

Explore some of the North East's finest attractions with us on a host of historically-themed excursions, from the bustling port of Whitby, once the home of the famous seafarer Captain Cook, to the open-air living museum of Beamish and the beautiful city of Durham.

Your break includes
- ✔ Return coach travel **from Bridgend & Cardiff**
- ✔ 4 nights at the Jurys Inn, Middlesbrough with dinner & breakfast
- ✔ Excursions to Durham, Beamish Living Museum & Whitby

5 Days by Coach *only* **£329**
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To apply call the hotline, e-mail us at HOMES4U@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or apply in writing to:
Vale of Glamorgan Council
Environment and Housing
Civic Offices, Holton Road
Barry CF63 4RU
www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 26TH FEBRUARY 2020

All Homes4U properties have double glazing and central heating unless otherwise stated and will be allocated to the maximum occupancy.

It may take longer to rehouse you if you are awarded medical priority as there is a shortage of accessible and adapted homes in the Vale.

AVON CLOSE, BARRY

H4U reference 201135

55+ Pref to apps with a medical priority

- One bed bungalow
- Step in Shower
- Ramped access to front
- Water Meter

Rent £102.36 per week

BUTTRILLS WALK, BARRY (NO PETS)

H4U reference 203171

- Three bed flat
- First floor (no lift)

Rent £108.17 per week inc water

CADOC CRESCENT, BARRY (NO PETS)

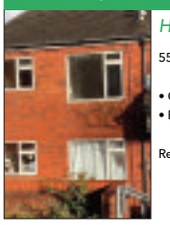
H4U reference 203365

55+

- One bed flat
- First floor (no lift)

Rent £102.53 per week inc water

HILL STREET, BARRY (NO PETS)



H4U reference 211996

55+

- One bed flat
- First floor (no lift)

Rent £103.29 per week inc water

MERTHYR DYFAN ROAD, BARRY

H4U reference 216295

- Two bed house

Rent £115.89 per week inc water

PARKLAND WALK, BARRY (NO PETS)

H4U reference 219285

55+ Pref to apps with a medical priority

- One bed flat
- Ground floor
- Step in Shower

Rent £108.58 per week inc water

PETERSWELL ROAD, BARRY (NO PETS)

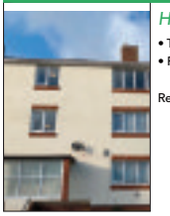
H4U reference 220674

60+ Pref to apps with a medical priority

.One bed flat
- Ground floor
- Step in shower
- Warden

Rent £118.22 per week inc water/warden

WILLIAMS CRESCENT, BARRY (NO PETS)



H4U reference 228262

- Two bed flat
- First Floor (no lift)

Rent £100.48 per week inc water

WILLIAMS CRESCENT, BARRY (NO PETS)

H4U reference 228286

- Two bed flat
- Ground floor (steps up to)
- Step in shower

Rent £100.48 per week inc water

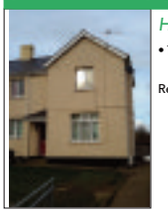
BROADWAY, COWBRIDGE

H4U reference 229864

- Four bed house

Rent £127.44 per week inc water

GLYNDWR AVENUE, ST ATHAN

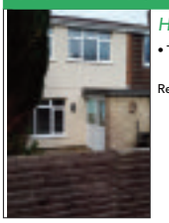


H4U reference 248561

- Three bed house

Rent £123.08 per week inc water

LOUGHER PLACE, ST ATHAN



H4U reference 248937

- Three bed house

Rent £122.59 per week inc water

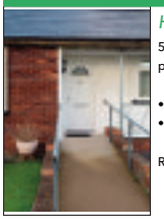
RECTORY CLOSE, WENVOE

H4U reference 250473

- Four bed house

Rent £130.16 per week inc water

KENT GREEN, BARRY



H4U reference 251532

55+ Pref to apps with a medical priority

- Two bed bungalow
- Wet Room

Rent £118.55 per week inc water

ARTHUR DAVIS COURT, BARRY (NO PETS)

H4U reference 970231 X 2

55+
- Bedsit
- Ground floor
- Independent Living Officer
- Communal Entrance & Gardens
- Parking
- Communal laundry

Recently refurbished

Rent £122.39 inc service charge

GRAYBURN HOUSE, BARRY

H4U reference 268353

No children under 16 due to planning restrictions

- Two bed flat
- Second floor (lift)
- Off Street parking

Rent £114.37 per week inc service charge

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Expressions of interest are invited for the following Hafod development, you will need to be a member of Homes4U in order to be considered. A local lettings policy applies to all. Allocations are based on highest priority connection to the area, then banding, then date. You will need to ring the contact centre on 01446 70111 in order to express your interest and you will be asked a series of questions regarding your local connection to the area and you will need to provide full details.

UNITED WELSH HOUSING ASSOCIATION

1. COED Y FFYNNON, DINAS POWYS

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WALES & WEST HOUSING ASSOCIATION

2. REDWOOD CLOSE, BOVERTON

1 X 1 bed first floor flat – Rent £98.92 per week

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You must be a HOMES4U member to apply for any of the rented homes.
When bidding for more than one property you will be asked to state your order of preference.
All descriptions and other details are given in good faith and are believed to be correct but any potential tenant should satisfy themselves as to their correctness.

Vale wedding venue is up for an award

A VALE wedding venue, Fonmon Castle, is a finalist in the Welsh Wedding Awards 2020.

The winner was due to be announced at a ceremony at The Exchange Hotel in Cardiff, which took place just after The GEM went to press.

Among the categories are: Wedding Venue of the Year, Caterer of the Year, Photographer of the Year, and Specialist Wedding Supplier of the Year.

Fonmon Castle Limited is a finalist in the regional Wedding Venue of the Year category. The castle changed ownership last January and is now in the care of Nigel Ford and family who are currently making many renovations and restorations to maintain the 12th Century Grade I listed castle – one of only a few castles in Wales that are still be lived in.

Some of the works include a new roof, re-instating chimneys and opening a tower as part of the castle tours.

Other investments at the 340-acre historic estate include a re-wilding project of the land, construction of a family attraction in the form of a dino park with nature trail, forest camp school and medieval farm and grange with live animals and re-enactments from actor Ross O'Hennessy and team. The castle is busily preparing for its Wedding Venue Showcase on Saturday, March 21 to launch its brand-new Wedding Village and Orchard Tipi for weddings and events, followed by a Grand Opening and Joust on Easter Weekend, Sunday, April 12, and Monday, April 13, for its Medieval Farm and Grange.

Further details of all events are available on their website: fonmoncastle.com

Gaynor Openshaw, The castle's sales and events manager, said: "We are absolutely delighted to have been nominated for Wedding Venue of the Year in our region and please can we thank all the lovely couples that voted for us.

"We are extremely honoured and hope to win this category as we endeavour to become the leading South Wales Wedding Venue for many years to come."

Guide dog training in Bridgend

LAST week's GEM gave details of a free training session in Bridgend on March 4 for family and friends living with sight loss, organised by Guide Dogs Cymru.

However, a typo may have given the wrong impression of the day. The phrase, 'please come along' appeared as 'please come alone'.

The GEM would like to emphasise that the session is for groups of family and friends.

Guide Dogs Cymru said the training session is for people who are looking to be able to guide a loved one with sight problems "safely and confidently".

The interactive session, which will take place at Evergreen Hall, March 4, at 2pm to 4pm, in the town, is designed to give people a better awareness of sight loss, as well as tips on the correct way to support a vision impaired person.

'Out of the strong, came forth sweetness' for Llantwit Boy's Brigade

THE youngest members of 2nd Llantwit Major Boys' Brigade, the Anchors, spent a busy evening discussing the story of Samson.

They now know why there is a picture of a lion and bees on a tin of golden syrup, and enjoyed making cornflake cakes!

The Anchors and Juniors will take a break for half term this week, but four members of Company Section are off to Gloucester on Saturday for the England/Wales final of Masterteam (the national quiz competition).

The winner will travel to Ireland in April for the National Final. Good luck to Morgan, Luke, Ciaran and Gabe!

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3 Bedrooms
Garage. Driveway
Rarely Available.
£425,000

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3 Bedrooms
West End Location
No Forward Chain
£274,950 E52

Boverton Brook , Boverton
4 Bedrooms
Conservatory
En-Suite
£360,000 D58

Regency Close , Llantwit Major
3 Bedrooms
Corner Plot
Garage. Driveway
£199,950 C69

Turkey Street, Llantwit Major
3 Double Bedrooms
Show Home Standard
Extended. 1 Acre Plot.
£795,000 D64

Fairfield Crescent, Llantwit Major
4 Bedrooms
Conservatory. Garage
Superbly Presented
£299,950 D62

Sunderland House , St Athan
4 Bedrooms
Double Garage
Impressive Driveway
£365,000 C72

Whiteways, Llantwit Major
2 Bed. En-Suite.
Off Road Parking
Adjoining Green Space
£149,950 D59

Newbarn Holdings, Flemingston
3 Bedrooms
1 Acre of Land
Double Garage
£410,000 E42

Mallory Close, St Athan
4 Bedrooms
2 Bathrooms
No Forward Chain
£129,950 D57

Pantycelyn Place, St Athan
2 Bedrooms
Driveway. No Chain
Superb Presentation
£164,950 D64

Flush Meadow, Llantwit Major
3 Bedrooms
Garage. Driveway
Views over Paddock
£365,000 E54

Gildas Close, Llantwit Major
3 Beds. 2 Recps.
Extended. En-Suite.
No Chain. GCH Combi.
£219,950 D68

Tennyson Way, Llantwit Major
4 Bedrooms
En-Suite. 2 Recps
Garage. Gardens
£342,000 C70

Voss Park Drive, Llantwit Major
4 Bedrooms
Double Garage
Superb Presentation
£359,500 E51

Colhugh Street, Llantwit Major
5 Beds. 3 Recps
3 Family Bathrooms
Garage. No Chain
£599,950 F29

Monmouth Way , Llantwit Major
4 Bedrooms
3 Bathrooms
130' Rear Garden
£320,000 D65

Forge Cottage, Llanmaes
Period Cottage
Orchard/Paddock
Driveway. Garage.
£335,000 E45

Ash Lane, St Athan
2 Bedrooms
Southerly Rear Garden
No Forward Chain
£129,950 D66

Manor Park, Llantwit Major
2 Bedrooms
Conservatory
Garage
£210,000 D63

Fairfield Rise, Llantwit Major
4 Bedrooms
Double Driveway
Rarely Available
£155,950 D56

Boverton Road, Llantwit Major
3 Bedrooms
130' Garden
Impressive Driveway
£385,000 C69

Church Street, Llantwit Major
3 Bedrooms
2 Receptions
West End Location
£235,000 E44

Chris Davies

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Lets!

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Three Bedroom House
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Semi Detached
Master Bedroom With En Suite
Garage With Driveway
Council Tax Band C. EPC C75. £925pcm

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One Bedroom 1st Floor Apartment
Fitted Kitchen with Oven and Hob
Balcony
Council Tax Band C. EPC C80. £600pcm

Llys Dwynwen, Llantwit Major
Two Bedrooms
Downstairs WC
Driveway Parking
Enclosed Rear Garden
Council Tax Band C. EPC D66. £625pcm

Picton Road, Rhoose
Three Bedroom House
Large Garden
Modern Throughout
Garage And Driveway
Council Tax Band D. EPC D62. £795pcm.

Beaufort Way, Rhoose
Two Bedroom Semi
Conservatory; Immaculate Order
Good Size Garden/2020 Appliances
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Broad Close, Barry
Two Double Bedroom Flat
Open Plan Kitchen / Living Room
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Cheers! Welsh Beer Week announced

A COLLABORATION between Welsh independent breweries, wholesalers and distributors will see the first official Welsh Beer Week launch in pubs across the country on March 8.

This March, as the Six Nations Rugby Championship drives the nation to pubs and around living room TVs, Wales' brewers are joining forces to offer beer lovers the chance to support the home team at the pump as well as on the pitch.

Welsh Beer Week is organised by the Welsh Drinks Cluster's Beer and Cider Group, which works in partnership with independent Welsh brewers, retailers and wholesalers to promote the nation's success at producing world class products. Speaking on behalf of the Welsh Drinks Cluster Beer & Cider Group, Cen Hayward said: "Wales has a proud history of producing high quality beers and ales. That legacy continues today as young breweries join our oldest brands to create and share those products with the world.

"Welsh Beer Week aims to give beer lovers across the country the chance to experience the true taste of Wales, to encourage them to join us in asking more pubs, bars and shops to stock Welsh ales and beer.

"You don't need to be an aficionado to appreciate the exceptional drinks we produce. Your new favourite pint could well be from a local brewery and we hope Welsh Beer Week helps you find it."

Pam and Russ Honeyman own Monty's Brewery in Montgomery. Commenting on the official launch, Pam said: "We believe that Welsh breweries deserve to be recognised for the exceptional quality of their beers and ales. Teams across the country are constantly securing some of the UK industry's top awards."

Russ Honeyman added: "The demand for locally sourced drinks has never been greater. Whether you prefer a traditional ale, or you're on a search for something totally new, we're confident Welsh Beer Week will help you find it."

Welsh Beer Week aims to help customers discover exceptional breweries that are right on their doorstep. Sean Murphy is a director at the Vale of Glamorgan Brewery and the managing director of the independent pub group, Knife and Fork. "Speaking on behalf of a Welsh brewery I'm probably biased, but I think it's fair to say that Wales is producing some of the best beer available from the UK. Young Welsh brewers in particular are showing that they are not afraid to push the boundaries when it comes to creating beers that truly set them apart from the rest. Those looking for quality and personality in their choice of beverage will have an array of premium options to choose from."

ABOVE: The official Welsh Beer Week logo that punters need to keep an eye out for.

Some of the UK's leading pub chains have supported the campaign to celebrate the nations brewers. That includes Ei Publican Partnerships, the leased and tenanted operation of the UK's largest pub company, Ei Group, which owns or operates c4,000 pubs across England and Wales.

Nick Light of Ei Publican Partnerships, said: "With over 100 pubs within our Partnerships estate located in Wales, we are very proud to support Welsh Beer Week to enhance the profile and knowledge of locally brewed beer. The drinks sector in Wales comprises many innovative producers and we want to be a part of its growth".

Welsh Beer Week will officially launch across the country on March 8 and will run until March 14 to coincide with the final matches of the Six Nations Rugby Championship, which will see Wales face Scotland at the Principality Stadium. Those looking to discover Welsh beers and ales just need to look for taps and pumps at the bar sporting the official Welsh Beer Week logo.

A-Z of Brecon: Places, People, History

THE ancient town of Brecon is in the heart of one of Britain's most beautiful national parks, a place of contrasts and enigmas, and in an A-Z of Brecon, author Mal Morrison takes readers on a journey through the primary and lesser-known streets and thoroughfares.

Along the way the author recounts ancient and modern tales, and discovers something of the identity and heritage of Brecon. As the alphabet progresses there are stories of the invaders who settled there; the treasured saints, and the beloved poets and musicians. The author also reveals forgotten facts and anecdotes along the fascinating journey.

Buildings, walls and bridges may give a town a character, and this well-illustrated book looks closely at these – but it is people who give it a heart, bringing it to life. Brecon has no shortage of fascinating residents, both living and departed and within its shadows lurk ghosts and hauntings.

All these stories and more are visited in the tour of this wonderful Welsh town.

'A-Z of Brecon Places-People-History' by Mal Morrison is published by Amberley Publishing at £14.99.

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RICS

Albert youngsters take over Bro Radio!

PUPILS from Albert Primary School in Barry visited the town's YMCA centre recently to record a show on Bro Radio to promote their school.

One of the school's media monitors explained: "When we arrived at the YMCA, we were met by Gareth and Matt who took us up to the recording studio.

"We were shown around the studio and we began to record our links for the radio show: however, all the children said that it was embarrassing to hear their own voice!

"We also had to choose different songs that we would use in the show.

"We had already asked children and staff for certain songs that truly reflected our school. The show will be aired on February 29, and it will be incredible to hear ourselves on the radio!

"It was a really great experience and we would like to thank everyone at BroRadio and Mack Events for this opportunity."

AM joins disabled swimming club for its AGM

VALE AM Jane Hutt joined members of Barry Beavers for their AGM on February 5..

The club is growing and now has over 80 members, and did incredibly well at their galas this year, helping Wales to win the UK National Gala.

Jane Hutt said: "It was wonderful to join Barry Beavers for their AGM and I was pleased to be able to speak about all the hard work being done by the volunteers and congratulate everyone on their successes this year.

"It was also great to be able to pay tribute to the continued hard work of dedicated members like Pat Finch, who was this year recognised with a BEM in the Queen's New Year's Honours List."

Fundraising at the Sandville!

Gwyneth Poacher and her daughter Sian.

Leighton, Rose and Marcia looked after the refreshments.

A TABLE top sale took place recently at Sandville Court, Ton Kenfig.

Sandville founder Gwyneth Poacher told The GEM: "We always look forward to the table top with lots friends and family popping in. This time there was a wonderful crowd of new faces.

"I had great pleasure in asking my very surprised daughter Sian of doing us the honour of declaring it open. Sian just happened to arrive as we were ready.

She gave a short speech which made me feel very humble, and there were lots of cheers and claps from all .

"Everyone spent well and we had a very enjoyable afternoon. My sincere thanks go to all the volunteers who give up their time.

"As always the refreshments were very popular, with Leighton, Rose and Marcia looking after everyone. Wwe made a profit of £913.31, which included Jacqui's superb raffle."

The table top sale is always 1 st sat of the month .

Sandville's next table top sale is on March 7, 2.30-4pm.

Send us your stories, photos, letters and sports reports

Dewi Sant Festival

THE Dewi Sant Festival, in Barry between February 29 and March 1 is being brought to you by Holton Road Traders Association, Barry Shop Local and The Vale of Glamorgan Council and is a first for Barry.

A spokesperson said: "After our amazing Christmas event we're making the most of Barry being 'back on the map' and the Dewi Sant Festival will celebrate all things Welsh. It's our St David's Day festival.

"The event will have a large funfair, activities for families, face painting, food, drink, a stage with music, crafts, street entertainment and a lovely dragon... which we'll use to create a #hashtag competition!

"James Danter and Sons are operating the funfair and will take over King Square with their rides. We're holding a traditional Welsh afternoon tea in a lovely marquee, in Central Park on Febriary 20, catered by Caesers Coffee Lounge.

"On stage we have school choirs, local bands and musicians, filling the days with beautiful music. The land of song will definitely bring you some fantastic musicians; we'll start Sunday, March 1 with the Welsh national anthem from the school choirs.

"It'll be held across two days, February 29 and March 1 between 12pm and 5pm; the event is free to attend with free parking in very close proximity."

Celebrating kindness

THE children of St Illtyd Primary School, Llantwit Major, celebrated an extra special day of kindness on February 14 after a recent visit from the 'School of Kindness', which supports the charity 52Lives in aiming to change someone's life every week of the year.

It is based on the simple premise that people are good, and lots of good people working together can achieve amazing things. Therefore, the children came up with the idea of doing an act of kindness for each other which could promote these values.

The children made pledges of kindness to each other which were carried out over the day. The teachers also made pledges, and the children helped their teachers. They even ran the awards assembly. Some of the more entrepreneurial children in year-5 made cakes to raise funds for the charity.

Headteacher Mr Hardy commented: "We have a lovely kind school anyway, but it was so nice to walk around and see the whole school going out of their way to be kind to others and raise money for the charity."

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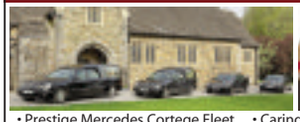
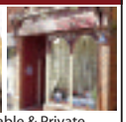
Park Funeral Directors





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Family Notices

GIBBONS
Richard

Peacefully on the 8th February at the UHW aged 97 years. A devoted husband to the late Florence, loving father to Peter and Michael, a respected father-in-law to Margaret, also an adored grandfather and great-grandfather.
He will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.
Resting at Robert D. Johnson Funeral Directors, 29 Holton Road, Barry. Funeral Service will be held on Tuesday, 25th February at All Saints Church, Barry at 1.30pm, followed by committal at Cardiff & Vale Crematorium, Port Road, Barry at 3pm.
For all enquiries please telephone 01446 733844.

GRAY
David Barry 'Dave' aka 'Shades'

Suddenly and unexpectedly on 31st January 2020, aged 38 years. A much loved son to Sheila and the late Ken. Cherished dad to Megan, Ella and Mollie. Adored grandson, uncle, nephew and cousin. Loved brother to Mike. Awesome friend.
Dave will be loved and missed by all his family and friends.
A cheeky chappy with a heart of gold.
Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the service on Friday, 6th March at 1.45pm at St Illtyd's Church, LLantwit Major, followed by committal at Coychurch Crematorium.
Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, in memory of Dave, may be made to RAF Benevolent Fund via the funeral director or at the wake.
The family ask that bright colours may be worn in honour of Dave.

CASTLE
Allan

Sadly passed away on 7th February 2020, aged 78 years.
Allan will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved him.
Resting at Robert D. Johnson Funeral Directors, 29 Holton Road, Barry. A service to celebrate Allan's life will be held at the Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry on Friday, 28th February at 11am. No flowers, donations can be made at the service to the Alzheimer's Association.

THOMAS
Mervyn Kerry

26/05/1942
Sadly passed away at home on 3rd February 2020, aged 77 years. Loving and supportive father to Nigel and Nick.
Mervyn will be sadly missed by his sister Roma and all his family and friends.
Resting at W.A. Brown, Llantwit Major until the service at Coychurch Crematorium on Wednesday, 26th February at 2.15pm

PRICE
Brynley

Sadly on 4th January 2020, at Llandough Hospital, Brynley, aged 76 years. Loved son of the late Victor and Margaret and brother of Raymond, George and the late Tom .
Funeral took place at A.G. Adams Funeralcare on Wednesday, 19th February, followed by interment at Cefyn Cemetery.

GUNN
Kay (Kate)

Peacefully on 11th February at Springbank Care Home, Kay, much loved mum of Kevin and special mother-in-law of Karen. Loving cousin to Janet and Gill.
Kay will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her.
Resting at The Vale Funeral Service, Court Road, Barry until her service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Thursday, 27th February at 2pm.
No flowers by request. Donations, if desired, may be made at the service to support The Alzheimer's Society in memory of Kay.

Family Notices

LEVICS
Lenny

Peacefully passed away on the 8th February at the UHW aged 73 years. Lenny a loving husband to Sharon, loving father to Sarah, father-in-law of Ollie and stepfather to John and Caroline.

Resting at Robert D. Johnson Funeral Directors, 29 Holton Road, Barry. A service to celebrate his life will be held on Thursday, 27th February at the Cardiff & Vale Crematorium, Port Road, Barry at 11am.

Family flowers only by request please. Donations in memory of Lenny are welcomed to the Alzheimer's Society UK and can be made at the service or sent to the funeral director.Wearing of black clothing is optional.

For all enquiries please telephone 01446 733844.

THOMAS
Louis F.G.

Peacefully at his home on Sunday, 2nd February 2020, Louis of Ewenny. Beloved husband of the late Sheila, dearly loved father of Max and father-in-law of Ruth.

Funeral service at Ewenny Priory Church on Friday, 28th February at 11am, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 12 noon. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu of flowers, if desired, to Macmillan Cancer Support c/o Gareth and Rhodri Howell of E Esaias & Son Funeral Directors, 39 Bridge Street, Kenfig Hill, Bridgend, CF33 6DB. Tel 01656 740491.

STONE
Jeffrey

Jeff passed away at home aged 74 years, on 8th February 2020. A dearly loved husband of Margaret and a great friend to many.

He will be sadly missed by all whose lives he touched.

Resting at W.A. Brown Funeralcare until his funeral service at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend on Thursday, 27th February at 2.15pm.

Family flowers only please.

PENGELLY
Paul

D.O.B. 2nd August 1949

Beloved father of Jodie, adored bampi of Izzy and Daisy and husband of Chloe. Paul passed away suddenly on Thursday, 30th January 2020 at Llandough Hospital, Penarth, aged 70 years.

Resting in the care of W.A. Brown Funeralcare until his funeral service on Tuesday, 25th February 2020 Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry at 1pm. Family flowers only please. Memorial donations if desired may be made in Paul's name to Velindre Hospital, Cardiff.

DOBSON
Enid Mary

Peacefully on 3rd February at College Fields Nursing Home, Barry - Enid beloved Wife of late Bernard and loving Mother of Philip and Elaine. Respected Mother-in-law of Ray and Christine. Adored Grandmother and Great-Grandmother of Andrew, Rachel and families and Grandmother and Great-Grandmother of her extended families.

Enid will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her.

Resting in the care of Lyndsay Ellis at the Vale Funeral Service, Barry until her service at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium on Tuesday, 25th February at 12 noon.

Family floral tributes only, donations if desired may be made at Enid's service to support the Multiple Sclerosis Society in her memory.

DOWNES
Merle

Peacefully passed away surrounded by her loving family on 10th February 2020, aged 84 years. Devoted wife of the late Stuart, loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Merle will be sadly missed by her twin sister Mavis, family and all her friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare, until the service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry on Wednesday, 26th February at 10am.

Family flowers only. Donations in lieu of flowers may be made to The British Heart Foundation at the service.

HALLETT
Jacqueline Marjorie Carole "Carole"

Peacefully at Llandough Hospital on Thursday, 13th February. Beloved wife of Eric, loving mother of Andrew, Lavinia and Peter, much loved grandmother.

Will always be forever in our hearts.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Monday, 2nd March, Service 10.30am at St Athan Church, followed by cremation 12 noon at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend.

Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Wales Air Ambulance c/o the funeral director.

DAVEY
Don

D.O.B. 11th March 1930

(Late of 5 Castle Court, Llantwit Major)

Passed away on Ward F at Morriston Hospital on 12th February 2020, aged 89 years. Beloved husband of the late Patricia. Dearly loved father to Colin and Gwyneth and father-in-law to Hilary and Tony. Much loved grandpa to Donna, Gareth, Peter, Jamie and Emma, and great-grandfather to Logan, Imogen, Jimmy and Freddie.

Don will be sadly missed by all his family and friends, and will be forever in our hearts.

Funeral on Wednesday, 4th March, service and cremation 12.30pm, at Swansea Crematorium.

Family flowers only. Donations if wished to Guide Dogs for the Blind, c/o funeral director Gwyn Jones, 118 Trallwn Road, Llansamlet, Swansea, SA7 9UU.

DOBROWOLNY
Tadeusz Zygmunt (Ted)

Peacefully on Tuesday, 4th February at Llandough Hospital. Beloved husband of Rita, much loved father of Brendan and the late Nicolas and dearly loved five grandchildren and two daughter-in-laws.

Resting at Robert D. Johnson Funeral Director, 29 Holton Road Barry until a cremation at Cardiff and Glamorgan Memorial Park and Crematorium, Port Road, Barry, CF62 9PX. Service at 2pm on Wednesday, 4th March, followed by a wake, 3pm at The Cherry Orchard, Barry Road, Barry, CF62 8EH.

Family flowers only by request. Donations desired to Marie Curie can be made at the service.

LLOYD
Ronald William

Peacefully at home in Aberthaw on Friday, 14th February 2020. Beloved husband of Sam, loving father of Jeff and Gareth. Much loved grandfather to Grace and Laura, great-grandfather to Raine and Meadow.

Will be sadly missed by family, friends and the community.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Thursday, 5th March, service and cremation 1pm at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry.

Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Marie Curie Holme Towers c/o the funeral director.

CADWGAN
Margaret

09.04.1931 – 07.02.2020

Sadly passed away on the 7th February 2020, aged 88 years. Loving mother to Kathryn & Nicholas, beloved grandmother to Daniel, Kelly, Emily and Oliver; great grandmother to Sophia.

Margaret will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

Resting at W.A. Brown, Llantwit Major until the service at St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major on Thursday 27th February at 2pm, followed by committal at Coychurch Crematorium

To advertise your situations vacant, family notices, birthdays, anniversaries, etc, call Sue on 01446 774484

MARSH
Brian Charles

Peacefully passed away after a short illness on 16th February 2020 at UHW aged 79 years. Devoted husband of Carol, much loved father to Simon, loving father in-law to Mya, loving brother to Sandra and brother-in-law to David.

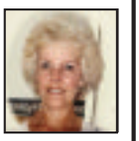
Our heartfelt thanks to ALL the staff on ward B1 for their compassion and care that they gave to him during his illness.

Resting at Robert D. Johnson Funeral Directors in Barry. Funeral service at the Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry on Thursday, 5th March 2020 at 2pm.

Family flowers only, charity donations in lieu of flowers to the funeral director please.

In Memory

RAWLE
Patricia Ann (*née Goode*)



Mum it has been a year since we lost you on 21st February 2019, you are in our thoughts and in our hearts everyday.

We all miss you and think about you all the time.

You were the best mother and nan we could wish for.

Lots of Love, Kevin, Stephen, Debbie, Carys & Alex xxxx

IN MEMORY

BLOSS
Vera Jean

25th February

Remembering a wonderful wife and mother, today and everyday.

I've shed so many tears since she died, but I am so proud to have known and loved her and will never, ever forget her.

Peter

Birthdays

To our wonderful great-grandson

Tyler Ude

Happy 21st Birthday

on 22nd February

Have a good one!

All our love always,
Grandma & Gramps
xxx

Tyler Ude

Happy 21st Birthday

on 22nd February

Have a good one!

Love always,
Nana, Harriett & Penelope xxx

HAPPY BIRTHDAY 21

on 22nd February

TYLER UDD

Love you lots and lots, to infinity and beyond
Mum & Paul *xxx*

Birthdays

Happy 60th Birthday

To our lovely friend and colleague

GAYNOR

Love from Carolyn, Sara, Sandra & Louise at Tailor Made Travel Cowbridge xxxx

Anniversary

Janet & John Davies

Diamond Wedding Anniversary!

On 22nd February 1960
St Illtud's Church,
Llantwit Major

'Celebrating 60 happy years together!'

Congratulations

73rd Wedding Anniversary

To wonderful parents, grandparents and great-grandparents

Jack & Mair Stevens

(Formerly of Rhoose)

on 24 February 2020

Lots of Love
Sylvia, Gerald & family, Neil & family xxx

Births

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PHOTO INSERTED

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Weight: 8lb 6oz.

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All the family
xxx

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Gallwn gynnig:
- Dysgu a datblygu wedi'i deilwra i'ch hyfforddi i fod yn weinyddydd rhagorol
- Buddion mamolaeth, tadolaeth ac absenoldeb rhiant hael (yn uwch na'r lleiafswm statudol)
- Lleoliad canolog ynghanol y dref
- Tîm cefnogol gwych yn barod i'ch croesawu.

Wrth ymuno â'n tîm, byddwch yn gyfrifol am gyflawni dyletswyddau cyffredinol a gweinyddol, ateb y ffôn, cyfarch aelodau'r cyhoedd a'u helpu gydag ymholiadau a rheoli llwyfannau cyfryngau cymdeithasol. Cysylltwch â ni i gael disgrifiad swydd a manyleb berson llawn.
37 awr yr wythnos, parhaol
SCP 3-6 (£18,065-£19,171)
Bydd deiliad y swydd yn dod yn Weinyddydd ar ôl cwblhau dwy flynedd o hyfforddiant.
Sylwer mai'r dyddiad cau ar gyfer pob cais yw dydd Gwener, 28 Chwefror 2020
Cynhelir cyfweliadau ar ddydd Mawrth 10 Mawrth 2020 yn Swyddfeydd Cyngor Tref Y Barri
Cysylltwch â Rebecca Blackwell yn beckyblackwell@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk neu ffoniwch 01446 704924 i gael pecyn cais neu drafodaeth am y rôl.

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Please contact us for a full job description and person specification.
37 hrs a week, permanent
SCP 3-6 (£18,065-£19,171)
The post holder will progress to Administrator after completing two years training.
Please note the closing date for all applications is Friday, 28 February 2020
Interviews will be held on Tuesday 10 March 2020 at Barry Town Council Offices
Please contact Rebecca Blackwell at beckyblackwell@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk or call 01446 704924 for an application pack or a discussion about the role.

Public Notice

LICENSING ACT 2003
Section 17 (5)
Notice of Application for a Premises Licence
NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT
An application has been made to Bridgend County Borough Council (the Licensing Authority) for a **PREMISES LICENCE.**
To permit licensable activities which it is proposed will be carried on, on or from the premises shown below. Details of the application may be inspected between the hours of : Monday to Thursday 0830 to 1700 hours and Friday 0830 to 1630 hours at Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB or by visiting the authority's website: www.bridgend.gov.uk. Any responsible authority or any other person may make representations in respect of the application, which must be submitted, in writing, to the following address before the date shown below:- Licensing Section, Bridgend County Borough Council, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB.
Name of applicant: Gilfach Goch Community Welfare Hub
Name and postal address of the premises: Gilfach Goch Community Welfare Hub, Pavillion, Welfare Park, Evanstown, Gilfach Goch, CF39 8RH
Statement of intended licensable activities:
(1) STATEMENT OF INTENDED LICENSABLE ACITIVITIES: (1) Sale of Alcohol Monday to Sunday 12.00 till 23.30 (2) Live Music (3) Recorded Music (4) Use of Gaming Machine. Opening Hours of Premises - Monday to Sunday 08.00 till 23.00 (30 mins drinking up time).
DATE BY WHICH REPRESENTATIONS MUST BE MADE:
This notice remains in forced from the including the day after the giving of this notice to the licensing authority, namely 10th March 2020, for 28 consecutive days
It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine on summary conviction is £5000.

VALERIE ELIZABETH LORIMER
(Maiden name: Wade)
(Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of College Fields Close, Barry CF62 8LE, who died on 04/10/2019, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 21/04/2020, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.
Julian Lorimer, The London Gazette (10985), PO Box 3584, Norwich NR7 7WD.

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AM backs calls to save Wildlife Reserve

SOUTH Wales Central AM Andrew RT Davies has backed calls to safeguard the future of Aberthaw Wildlife Reserve.

The reserve is located at Aberthaw Power Station, and Mr Davies has been contacted by several residents, as well as the Rhoose and Aberthaw Wildlife campaign group, to express concerns about its future when the station closes.

He recently met station manager Will Jeffery and project development manager Fiona Auty (*pictured above*)to emphasise the need to retain the reserve on the site, and pressed for a positive resolution. The ash tip area on the site is also home to many species, including skylarks, partridges, kestrels, badgers and butterflies.

Mr Davies said: "Aberthaw Wildlife Reserve is a beacon for biodiversity in the area, and it is no surprise residents, as well as Rhoose and Aberthaw Wildlife, are so concerned about its future.

"It's vital we safeguard its future when the power station closes, and I am grateful to Will and Fiona for taking the time to meet.

"I emphasised the need to maintain the reserve long term, and pressed for a solution to be found."

Vale school plays its part in developing new Welsh education curriculum

ST Joseph's Primary School in Penarth has been working closely with Welsh Government on the creation of the new curriculum framework, soon to be rolled out in primary schools nationwide.

Schools will be required to design their own curriculum and assessment arrangements and, rather than following a nationally prescribed learning program, schools will be able to make decisions that best meet the needs of specific learners.

As well as contributing to the framework, St Joseph's has also introduced its own curriculum, and is one of only 16 Curriculum Innovation Schools in Wales.

The curriculum is based on findings in child development and cognitive science, with staff undertaking learning on how children's bodies and minds develop.

Lessons have been tailored to enhance pupils' personal, social and physical development, while providing a detailed knowledge and understanding of the world, both past and present. The school has also benefited from refurbishment of all classrooms, a complete reconfiguration of the Foundation Phase learning spaces and a state-of-the-art nursery.

Staff regularly deliver learning experiences outside of the classroom, as the school's grounds include a playing field, wooded area, pond, orchard, wildflower meadow and polytunnel.

The introduction of the school's ambitious new curriculum has seen standards improve year on year.

Last year's National Reading Tests saw the average child in St Joseph's score within the top 20 per cent of the country, with similarly high standards achieved in mathematics.

Headteacher Gareth Rein said: "We're extremely proud of our achievements at St Joseph's.

"Everything we do is based on the best available research and is designed to help each individual child thrive."

The Vale Council Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration, Cllr Lis Burnett, said: "The new Curriculum for Wales is inspiring schools to take a more holistic approach toward learning. It encourages them to focus more on how and why the curriculum is being delivered, rather than delivering specific content and academic results.

"St Joseph's have done a brilliant job in helping craft this approach, and in turn have seen their own curriculum and learning practices blossom."

St Joseph's will host an Open Day on Wednesday, March. Parents are carers can visit the school at 10am, 2pm and 4.30pm and slots can be booked via EventBrite: *www.eventbrite.co.uk/.*

Pontycymer's amazing art gallery puts on a brand new exhibition

IT is several years now since the artist Kevin Sinnott (*pictured right)* returned to the Garw Valley after years building an international reputation in London.

When he and his wife Sue made the decision to come home, they decided that, as well as making a home in the valley, they would create an art gallery too.

An old shop in Oxford Street, Pontycymer, was chosen and it was transformed, at considerable expense, into Studio 18, one of the most attractive galleries you will find.

The latest exhibition, with the snappy title of 'Every Home Should Surprise Itself and Hang the Biggest Painting It Can, Somewhere, Somehow', will run until March 7.

Recent exhibitions have showcased other local artists, as will the exhibition that is scheduled to follow this, but this one features Kevin's work.

In many ways, it reflects a period of creative energy that followed a tragic event. Sue became ill and Kevin nursed her until she sadly passed away.

In the exhibition notes, he says: "My strongest characteristic is that I can not stop, even in my darkest hours, when I nursed Sue, I managed to paint the series of large 'history' painting."

This exhibition shows that Kevin has continued to keep busy.

When it comes to hanging the biggest painting you can, there is no lack of choice, but Kevin's work is much in demand, so price may be a factor.

However, visiting Studio 18 is an end in itself.

It's a jewel in the Garw Valley.

The exhibition is open Thursday and Friday (2pm to 5pm) and Saturday (10am to 2pm), until March 7.

Studio 18 is at 18, Oxford Street, Pontycymer, CF32 8DB. For more information, telephone 01656 871019 (studio) or email mail@kevinsinnott.co.uk

Report by Philip Irwin

DS 3 Crossback Prestige PureTech 155 Auto 8-speed Motors review by Tony Yates

A few weeks ago you might remember that I tested my first-ever EV – and you might remember me telling you how it was brilliant, and how I'm now a convert.

Well, I have now recovered and I'm back once again testing cars that have an actual combustion engine, which I was missing quite a lot actually. But now for this week's review of the DS 3 Crossback.

Power and Efficiency:

The DS 3 Crossback I had on test was powered by 3 cylinder 1199cc Euro 6.3 petrol engine with 114kW of power (155HP) and 240Nm of torque - which is a good starting point.

Fuel consumption comes in around 41 – 46 mpg combined (subject to how you drive) and CO2 emissions of around 114 - 128g/km (combined) and a respectable 0-62 time of around 8.2 seconds plus a max speed of 129mph.

On the road:

The DS 3 rides well and all the chassis components have been set up to keep you welded to the road ahead and feeling in total control. Into the corners, it's smooth, and the suspension underneath you does a great job of keeping it that way, no matter how demanding the road gets.

All this makes for a very relaxing drive – unlike my VW UP! GTi, which rattles my teeth out at every opportunity.

I would like to have had a bit more feedback from the steering, but the chassis more than makes up for this minor niggle. Maybe it's me, but the older I get - the more I want a car to be smooth and unfussy... unless you are 18, because then you want a car that can bounce you around like a tennis ball.

Interior and Technology

The seating does a great job of keeping you well supported, while the rear passenger legroom is adequate for most adults. Boot space is also good at 350litres (seats up) plus you get 40/60 split rear seats and a height-adjustable front seat.

The DS3 Crossback also benefits from: Hill Start Assist, front and rear parking sensors, ESP, tyre pressure sensors, EBS – lane-keeping assist, lane departure warning and speed recognition, security alarm, automatic lights and wipers, DS 3d LED rear lights, halogen headlights and dark tinted rear windows.

Plus, there are lots of cool things to keep you entertained for many hours such as: 10inch HD touchscreen, DAB digital radio with 8 speakers, Mirror Screen with Apple car play and Android Auto, DS Connect 3D Navigation and flush-fitting door handles that pop in and out. This feature alone is very cool – and I admit that I spent much of my time just locking and unlocking the DS 3 because it was so cool. I also drove around to all my friends' homes so I could get very excited explaining to them all about this very cool feature. Ok, I'm joking – but I had you going there for a minute!

To sum up: The DS 3 Crossback is a great car for any person looking for a family car that ticks all the boxes. I am going to give the DS 3 four stars in this test, because it really does deserve it.

Price: (from) £30,020 OTR - not including fitted options.

Tony Yates

Latest results from all the Barry Social Club competitions

THE Barry Social Clubs latest results are as follows:

Crib Division 1: Cadoxton Cons 6, West End 9; Liberals 9, Rhoose Social 6; Romilly Railway 11, Moors Boys 4.

League points: Romilly Railway 136, Liberals 125, Rhoose Social 125, West End 125, Cadoxton Cons 118, Moors Boys 113 Wyndham Cons 113.

Skittles Division 1: Slammers 5.5, Rhoose Social A 1.5; Liberals A 2, West End D 5; Rhoose Social B 2, Rugby Club 5; Allsorts 3, Rhoose Social C 4; Rhoosters 6, Liberals C 1; Sea View Exiles 1, Barry Town Fc 6; Barries Boys 6, King William XII 1; West End C 5, Cambrian Flyers 2.

League points: West End D 93.5, Rhoose Social C 89.0, Sea View Exiles 82.5, Rugby Club 80.5, Barry Town Fc 71.0, Allsorts 69.0, King William XII 67.5, Rhoose Social A 67.5 West End C 66.0, Slammers 61.5, Barries Boys 60.5, Liberals C 60.0, Rhoosters 50.5, Rhoose Social B 48.0, Cambrian Flyers 43.5, Liberals A 39.5.

Snooker Division 1: Cadoxton Cons B 2, West End C 3; Wyndham Cons A 3, Cadoxton Cons Z 2; Rhoose Social C 2, Penarth Cons B 2; Penarth Cons A 2, Harbour B 3; Liberators 1, Rhoose Social B 4.

League points: West End C 68, Harbour B 64, Cadoxton Cons Z 60, Savoy B 56, Cadoxton Cons B 53, Penarth Cons A 50, Wyndham Cons A 42, Rhoose Social C 33, Penarth Cons B 28, Rhoose Social B 24, *Liberators 21.

Snooker Division 2: Services Social B 4, Market Street A 1; West End A 3, Cadoxton Cons A 2; Harbour A 3, Market Street B 2; Wyndham Cons D 1, Sully Sports A 4; Market Street C 2, Savoy C 3.

League points: Market Street C 65, Services Social B 57, Savoy C 55, Market Street A 52, West End A 51, Wyndham Cons D 51, Market Street B 45, Harbour A 41, Cadoxton Cons A 38, Sully Sports A 33, West End B 32.

* = points deducted.

View all results and league tables at: *www.barryleagues.co.uk*

JW

Young carers find their voices at fundraising concert for Barnardo's Cymru

A choir of remarkable children and young people who look after sick or disabled relatives will take centre stage next month when Barnardo's Cymru holds a fund-raising concert.

The Merthyr Young Carers' Choir, whose members are aged between nine and 15, often have heavy responsibilities at home helping to look after parents or siblings; but every week they have a night off to sing their hearts out with the choir which meets in Dowlais.

On Monday, March 2 they will join more than 600 singers from 17 schools including young people from Bridgend, Barry and the Vale of Glamorgan at a fundraiser for the children's charity at St David's Hall, Cardiff. Money raised will go towards helping some of the area's most vulnerable children and families.

The concert was held for the first time last year and proved so popular with schools that it has returned for a second date with compere Stifyn Parri. The Merthyr Young Carers' Choir was set up by Barnardo's Cymru project worker Geraldine Maddison who runs respite sessions for the young people, funded by Merthyr Borough Council.

Geraldine said: "Singing is not just time away from caring, but it breaks down barriers and allows them to make new friends. For some it is the only socialising they are able to do. They realise they are not the only ones with caring responsibilities, it builds their confidence and has brought them some great opportunities."

For the Barnardo's Cymru concert, the young carers will be joining a massed choir singing some of their favourite songs including 'Everything is Awesome' from The Lego Movie, 'Hallelujah', the Welsh song 'Hafan Gobaith'. Alongside the choir will be performances from Cardiff's Rubicon Dance School. The concert will be conducted by Nia Llewelyn Jones and accompanied by organist Jonathan Hope, both from Gloucester Cathedral.

Tickets are priced between £8 and £17 and can be purchased directly from St David's Hall at *www.stdavidshallcardiff.co.uk.*

Local primary schools taking part are: Llansannor Church in Wales Primary, St David's Church in Wales, Colwinston and St Helen's RC, Barry.

How an 'Upstairs Downstairs' moment led to a Cowbridge cricket mutiny

ONE thing that non-sports fans miss, is that writing about any game involves a great deal of social history. The current travails at West Ham FC stem, in part, from moving from a small, 'working class' ground to a modern – but soul-less – super stadium.

In this fascinating piece, Jeff Bird, the chairman of Cowbridge Cricket club, recalled a time in the 1930s when the club made its own contribution to social history.

It appears that social class was the root of the problem then. Well, who would have thought it?

WINNING can be a bond amongst disparate groups of sportsmen formed into teams.

This was beautifully illustrated when the BBC's Peter West once interviewed the Yorkshire batsman Doug Padgett and, in his best jolly good chaps way, he suggested to Padgett that for Yorkshire to have won three county championships in successive years, the team must have a wonderful team spirit.

After a long pause, Padgett replied no, it wasn't true, in fact they didn't much like each other but that they were all good players and that winning was what kept them together.

As they grew older and winning came less often the cracks appeared and the they all fell out.

Perhaps Hilaire Belloc came close to giving sport a more desirable context than winning being all by suggesting that 'There's nothing worth the wear of winning. But laughter and the love of friends'.

Had Boycott, Illingworth and the rest had a little bit of the Belloc view, who knows what they might have achieved.

In the 1930s, Cowbridge Cricket Club was a power in club cricket. Test and county cricketers appeared on a regular basis and losses were hardly ever entered in the scorebooks by the Miss Russells.

The Second XI also enjoyed success, if anything being statistically even more successful than the Firsts. Winning was important and it kept up an illusion of harmony which would turn out to be a dangerous one.

Cowbridge ran three teams, a First, Second and Midweek XI, the latter taking advantage of early closing in the town on a Wednesday which allowed shopkeepers to play. While the Wednesday XI brought together the members of both the other two XIs, it was obvious to everyone then, and not difficult to work out now, that there was a clear division between the teams on a social basis.

The First XI seems to have a strong public school influence. The members were at the very least professional gentlemen. It seems that some were men who had retained a superior vision of their station in life and that they failed to get along with those whom they regarded as their social inferiors is no surprise.

To the disappointment of those with ambition, this attitude seemed to creep into the subjective waters of team selection.

As for the printers, the ironmongers, the railway workers and the librarian who were the core of the Second XI, it is not hard to imagine a sense that they felt this was not the way it should be.

Years later the doyen of Cowbridge cricket, Colin Adams was unusually adamant in his view that two players at least played a good deal more Second XI cricket than their talents would have suggested – nay bellowed should have been the case.

The two in question were Bruce Bird, an ironmonger and wicket-keeper whose combative style might have been a bit rich for the Firsts, and Ted Lewis a railwayman who probably took more wickets than anyone else has done for the club.

Colin Adams believed that these two could have played first class cricket. Bruce was also the man who led the fundraising to bring county cricket to Cowbridge and was at the heart of committee activities.

Nobody could claim this was anything but a complex situation.

So against this background of social tension came the inevitable spark that ignited an explosion that would cause a great schism within the club.

The facts, as relayed by word of mouth, were that a Midweek XI went to play at a country house venue in the Llanelli area. That venue remains unknown but this was no ordinary fixture as it involved a morning start and a lunch interval.

This was when the trouble started. When time came for the break for lunch, the hosts invited those from Cowbridge who they considered their social equals to dine with them upstairs, while the rest of the team were consigned to eat downstairs with the staff.

Why the Cowbridge invitees to the upstairs did not suggest that such an arrangement would not do is unclear. Perhaps they felt embarrassed, perhaps they failed to see that it would be seen as an insult.

Whatever the situation, it was taken to be one by the downstairs diners. They were not going to complete the game under such circumstances. When the time came to restart, the rest of the Cowbridge team were probably past Morriston on their way home.

The fall out was sad. A number of stalwarts, having felt slighted, left the club to play elsewhere. Despite the devastation of such a public falling out, all that was officially recorded was an entry in the Minute Book to the effect that there would only be one XI in 1936.

It would take time and eventually some acceptance that both sides in this sad event had the ability but lacked the will to have avoided the rumpus at lunch and might have managed the fall out better.

It remained a complex affair. Of the players, Neil Brown continued to play, his twin Alan preferred not to.

A couple went to Miskin, another to St Fagans. And all the while in his deadliest form was the Sydney Barnes of Cowbridge, Ted Lewis who, given the chance proved equally as effective at First XI level as he had done in the Seconds

By the time Cowbridge put out a Second XI again, a world war had taken place and Clement Attlee was Prime Minister.

The General Election of 1946 had been a seminal moment in British history.

"We are the masters now" proclaimed Hartly Shawcross. It was a very different world socially in which Cowbridge Cricket Club and the country at large would seek to restore itself from the country house mutiny. When that happened there would be laughter and friendships and that is what sport is about.

JRB

Latest results from the Barry and District Men's Skittles League

RESULTS from the Barry Men's Skittles League are as follows:

Division 1. Bunker Boys 265 (J Gill 28), Cavaliers 275 (M Ryan 27); Posties 260 (T Gray 28), Blue Monkey 309 (N Phillips, M Underdown, M Weaver 31); Park Lads 270 (K Jones 29), BillyWhizz 291 (C Alldred 34); Merrymen 277 (S Taylor 29), 49ers 274 (B Bryan, J Gee 28);British Rail 258 (B Cureton 27), Willie Wombles 277 (S Cannon 32).

League points: Merrymen 26, 49ers 22, Blue Monkey 18, Billy Whizz 18, Willie Wombles 18, Cavaliers 18, Bunker Boys 13, Posties 10, Park Lads 9, British Rail 8, Sea View 8, Geest 8.

Division 2. Mighty Dockers 259 (P Davies 29), Colcot Boys 261 (S Tobin 27); H Bells 271 (K Smith, T Cole 30), Barry Park B 251 (N Stephenson 26); Park Rangers 264 (S Dite 29), Cannon Balls 215 (S Pike 27); Tynny Lads 264 (E Davies 29), Exiles 238 (J Miles, A Clissett 27); Witchill Poachers 336 (Rab Connell 33), KP Rejects 355 (J Barrett 39).

League points: Mighty Dockers 22, Cannon Balls 20, Bells 20, Tynny Lads 20, KP Rejects 18, Park Rangers 15, Colcot Boys 14, Hairy Lemons 13, Barry Park B 13, Witchill Poachers 9, Castle Boys 8, Exiles 4.

Division 3. BP Breakaways 279 (B Parkman, Jake Rees 27), Royalists 276 (C Iannucci 29); Cocoa Nuts 279 (S Evans, L James 31), Abercrete 249 (D Selby 27); Billy Flyers 283 (D Dwyer 30), CUD 242 (P Palmer, B Saif 26); Ex Servicemen 284 (R Harrington 37), Billy Bluebirds 256 (A Dyer 27).

League points: Alternatives 18, Cocoa Nuts 17, BP Breakaways 16, Billy Flyers 16, Royalists 15, Ex Servicemen 14, Billy Bluebirds 14, Witchill Nomads 7, CUD 3, Abercrete 2. View all results and league tables at: *www.barryleagues.co.uk*.

JW

Latest results from the Barry and District Ladies' Skittles League

LATEST results from the Barry Ladies Skittles League are as follows:

Division 1: Cigar Ladies 261 (L Webb 27) v La Belles 247 (S Davies & SK Davies 26); Allsorts 253 (C Newell 26) v Challengers 245 (J Diamond 28); Special Angels 257 (L Mountford 31) v Space Finders 246 (K Jackson 27); Coppers 279 (J Williams 32) v Family & Friends 298 (J Crompton 31); Sea View Gals 277 (M Richards 31) v Cadoxton Conservative Fillies 241 (D Stringer 27); Barry Stars 217 (D Bows her 27) v Pila Pala 237 (D O'Sullivan 26).

Division 2: Breakaways 259 (B Thrusting 29) v Red Admiral 285 (J For an 29); Persuaders 228 (E Gardiner 24) v Family Affair 250 (S Wilson & C Thomas 26); Rhoose Starlights 218 (G Drake 24) v Etcetera 274 (M Jones & C Stillman 29); Roller Coasters 244 (L Gould 27) v Clickies 231 (H Butt & S Sutton 24); Fallen Angels 249 (R Phillips 24) v Witchill Weebies 228 (H Aspinall 27); Colcot Ladies 244 (B Bowring 26) v Rugby Triers 230 (V Cawley 26).

Division 3: Hillbillies 307 (W Chamberlain, H Collins & M Brink worth 28) v Dolly Mixtures 280 (G Burdge 30); Livin-on-a-Spare 332 (S Clarke & I Overton 31) v Weetenders 335 (T Coombes & M Condon 33); Little Devils 223 (D Harrhy 25) v Liberals 222 (A Neale 26); Sea View Ladies 197 (K Lancy 24) v Airways Angels 231 (M Carpenter 25); Witchill Widows 301 (M Curry & S Hurn 31) v Off the Rails 272 (J Simms & L Stephenson 27).

Division 4: Merry Makers 178 (B Walker 21) v Drifters 226 (A McCarthy 28); Witches 239 (Y Chick 25) v Nite Outers 214 (L White 25); Witchill Wanderers 300 (F Ghiasi 32) v Westend Rollers 224 (T Perry 31).

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17 66 ABARTH 595 1.4 T-Jet 145 3dr, air-con, dab, sat nav, 27k, yellow **£9995**

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12 12 AUDI A3 2.0 TDI S Line 2dr Convertible, Bluetooth, cruise, misano red, full leather **£5995**

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16 66 BMW 225xe Luxury 5dr [Nav] Auto, pan roof, sat nav,35k, grey, full leather **£15995**

17 67 BMW 320 D M Sport Shadow Edition 4dr Automatic, BMW warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, harman kardon, heated seats, blue, full leather **£16295**

15 65 BMW 335 D XDrive M Sport 4dr Automatic, sat nav, through load, 38k, silver, full leather **£16995**

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16 66 BMW 420d [190] M Sport 2dr Auto, M Sport +pack, 19"alloys, grey, full leather **£16495**

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16 66 BMW 520 D M Sport Estate Automatic, pan roof, 190bhp, sat nav, 33k, choice, full leather **£15495**

16 66 BMW 535d Gran Turismo M Sport 5dr Step Automatic, sat nav, soft close doors, reverse camera, 33k, silver, full leather **£22995**

16 66 BMW 640d M Sport 4dr Automatic, sat nav, 19"alloys, xenons, 29k, blue, full beige leather **£22495**

15 15 BMW M5 4.4 4dr DCT automatic (559bhp), elec glass sunroof, 19'' alloys, sat nav, reverse camera, 26k, white, full leather **£26995**

15 65 BMW X1 2.0 D XDrive X-Line 5dr Automatic (190bhp), sat nav, 18"alloys, 32k, bronze, full leather **£16795**

16 68 BMW X2 sDrive 20i M Sport 5dr Step Auto, BMW warranty Jan 2022, 19"alloys, sat nav, privacy glass, 5k, black **£23995**

16 16 BMW X3 xDrive20d M Sport 5dr Step Automatic, sat nav, 19"alloys, black, full leather **£17995**

15 65 BMW X5 3.0 D XDrive M Sport 5dr Automatic (7-Seater), 20"alloys, sat nav, reverse camera, carbon black, full leather **£26495**

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17 17 FORD FOCUS 1.0 EcoBoost 125 Zetec 5dr, Ford warranty April 2020, sat nav, Bluetooth, cruise, 18k, met blue **£9995**

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18 68 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.2 DiG-T N-Connecta 5dr, Nissan warranty October 2021, sat nav, 18"alloys, pan roof, 7k, black.....**£15995**

17 67 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI Acenta 5dr, Nissan warranty Oct 2020, cruise, Bluetooth, aux, usb, 14k, blue **£12495**

16 66 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.6 dCi Tekna 5dr, sat nav, rev cam, 24k, black, full leather **£12495**

16 66 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.6 DCI 130 N-Connecta 5dr CVT Automatic, sat nav, reverse camera, blue.....**£11495**

16 66 NISSAN X-TRAIL 1.6 dCi N-Vision 5dr, panoramic roof, sat nav, 19"alloys, met green.....**£12995**

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17 66 RENAULT CAPTUR 0.9 TCE 90 Dynamique S 5dr, Renault warranty Feb 2021, sat nav, pdc, privacy glass, 19k, black.....**£9495**

17 67 RENAULT KADJAR 1.2 TCE Dynamique Nav 5dr, Renault warranty Nov 2021, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, dab, 15k, white **£11795**

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17 67 SEAT LEON 1.6 TDI SE Dynamic Technology 5dr DSG Automatic, Seat warranty until December 2020, sat nav, cruise, 8k, grey **£11495**

17 67 SEAT ALHAMBRA 2.0 TDI CR Xcellence [150] 5dr DSG (7-Seater) Seat warranty Jan 2021, pan roof, sat nav, 16k, grey, full leather.....**£21495**

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17 66 VW GOLF 2.0 TSI Blue Motion Tech GTI 5dr Automatic (220bhp), VW warranty March 2020, sat nav, cruise, heated seats, 10k, red **£17995**

16 66 VW GOLF 2.0 TDI GT Edition 5dr, sat nav, heated seats, grey **£13995**

16 66 VW SCIROCCO 2.0 TDi BlueMotion Tech GT 3dr DSG Automatic, sat nav, 18"black alloys, dab, grey, half-leather **£13795**

17 67 VW TIGUAN 2.0 TDI SE 5dr DSG Automatic, VW warranty Dec 2020, sat nav, cruise, dab, 17k, grey..**£18995**

14 64 VW TOURAN 2.0 TDI BlueMotion Tech SE 5dr, (7-Seater) DAB, cruise, white **£9995**

17 67 VOLVO S60 2.0 T4 [190] Business Edition Lux 4dr, Volvo warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, 17k, blue **£12995**

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16 16 VOLVO XC60 D4 [190] SE Lux Nav 5dr Geartronic, sat nav, cruise, 31k, white, full leather **£17995**

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17 67 VW PASSAT 1.4 TSI GTE Estate DSG Automatic (215bhp), sat nav, heated seats, 18"alloys, black,

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16 66 MERCEDES A180 D SE 5dr Automatic, sat nav, reverse camera, grey, full leather

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18 18 VOLVO V40 2.0 T3 152 Momentum Nav Plus 5dr, sat nav, heated seats, cruise, 19k, grey

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16 66 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.6 dCi Tekna 5dr, sat nav, rev cam, 24k, black, full leather

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19 19 SEAT IBIZA 1.0 TSI 115 FR [EZ] 5dr, Seat warranty July 2022, apple car play, sat nav, 1k, white

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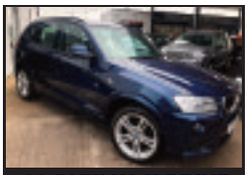

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Ciara doesn't deter the St Mary's seniors

STORM Ciara left several days' legacy of strong, gusting winds and bitterly cold temperatures; the hostile conditions, however, did not deter the 18 members of St Mary's senior section, who teed off in a Stableford competition.

Their only concession to the weather was a decision to leave out the longest two holes and play a reduced course. It was a tribute to the green-keeping staff that, despite the weather, the fairways were in good condition and the greens were running well.

In-form former captain Hugh Williams, who was just pipped at the post the previous week on count-back, was promoted to a clear win this week with a three better than par score of 35 points. Trefor Jones' 31 secured second place.

Two days later, in a brief respite from the winds before Storm Dennis rolled in, the section's second competition of the week was another individual Stableford. With heavy overnight rain, and more forecast through the morning, just 11 took on the sodden fairways, but limited their exposure to the elements by opting to play an even shorter course of just 10 holes.

Another former captain, Dave Hughes, who by his own admission played well, headed the leaderboard with a 22 points. Doug Mein was placed second with 20.

The previous week, the senior section played over 16 holes. Although dry, the 26 players were faced with a biting wind and ground conditions which were soft underfoo

All three placings recorded scores better than the nominal par of 32 points. Rapidly improving novices Mike Tayler and Hugh Williams, were tied at the head of the leaderboard with 35. Tayler was awarded the victory, however, following a back seven count-back. Roger Hatton was third on 34. Twos were scored by Roy Denton and Gordon Campbell at the seventh. Trefor Jones bagged another on the 10th.

NL

Storm Dennis 1 – rugby 0 as games are off

STORM Dennis took its toll last weekend as many fixtures, including Cowbridge RFC's fixture against Llantwit Fardre, were called off.

There were upsetting scenes of flooding in many areas.

Cowbridge are next in league action on February 29, taking on Llantrisant at home. Then on March 21, away at Treharris, both key games after three narrow losses. All available players are needed, with some hopefully returning from injury. We continue to send best wishes to David Popham after his nasty injury.

We will need to rearrange some of the cancelled fixtures to avoid a log jam in April.

This Saturday Wales, under a new coaching team, take on a rejuvenated French team with kick-off at 4.45pm. There is a club bus going to Cardiff, please contact the club to secure a seat.

There was a bumper crowd at the club and a great atmosphere for the Irish game and we hope to replicate that on Saturday – and on March 7, at 4.45pm again, versus England.

On the night of March 6, the junior section are running a quiz evening and on March 13 the club host a Q & A night with guests Lee Byrne and Gareth Cooper. Make sure you get your tickets for both as soon as possible.

RV/RK

Barry Veterans teams march on in Cups and Leagues

BARRY Town Vets over-60s stayed on top of the Wales Veterans over -60s League after recording their second 3–0 win in succession, comfortably defeating Merthyr Tydfil at Ystrad Mynach Centre for Sport.

Barry dominated the first half with Huish and Price taking control of the middle of the park and Staddon and Crothers galloping down the flanks, putting Merthyr under intense pressure.

Bobbett, remarkably playing his second full match of the day, and Morgan terrorised the opposition defence and Inevitably it was the former who slotted home to give his side a deserved lead.

Barry continued to pepper the visitors' goal – Huish hit a post, and Bobbett and Morgan were denied only by the alert Merthyr gloveman. However, it was only a matter of time until they extended their lead – courtesy of a fine right-footed strike by Staddon. He repeated the feat minutes later to take his team 3–0 up at the break.

During the interval, the tireless Morgan was replaced by 70-year-old 'Town' legend Batt, whilst Taylor was replaced by Eveleigh. Barry were happy to ease back in the second period and as a result became more disordered, so although they still created several opportunities to extend their lead, they also allowed Merthyr to attack on the break. Unfortunately, they found Brown in imperious form and when Barry keeper Orpin was finally called into action he was up to the task, safely smothering a goal-bound effort and ensuring his team maintained their three-goal buffer and stayed unbeaten this term.

Barry Town Vets over-55s progressed into the Wales Veterans over-55s Cup Final… but didn't have it all their own way!

Barry, shorn of several key players, faced qualifying group rivals Swansea at a blustery Penyrheol Sports Centre, acutely aware that they would have to lose the game by four clear goals to allow their opponents to 'leap-frog' them into the final.

In a scrappy opening, exacerbated by the strong wind, Swansea were dangerous, but Averies, M Jones and Gibbins were defiant and, in fact, neither keeper was tested in the opening exchanges. Agonisingly, on 20 minutes a rare blunder by Barry stopper J Jones gifted the hosts a fortunate lead. He redeemed himself minutes later with a spectacular penalty save as the hosts exerted pressure.

This incident jolted Barry into a response and they too had a period of superiority with Jones, Averies and man-of-the-match Gibbins' accurate cross-field passes causing problems for the Swans defence, but a series of superb saves from Swansea gloveman Meecham, along with some imprecise finishing, prevented the visitors from gaining parity before half-time.

During the interval, manager Hill called for calmness and discipline… but five minutes after the re-start a loose pass by Marshall was seized upon by the hard-working Swans midfield and they took an unlikely 2–0 lead.

In a fiercely competitive last 30 minutes, Barry lost shape and restraint, pouring forward often at the expense of defensive responsibilities. They did create several gilt-edged chances which Bobbett, Welsh, Gibbins and Averies should have converted, but a more pragmatic approach would likely have borne more fruit – and certainly less anxiety!

In a below-par performance, Barry still created enough opportunities to win and progressed 'comfortably' to the final at Jenner Park on May 10, where they will face south east Wales rivals, Newport.

Barry Vets over-50s travelled to Bridgend to face a high-flying Penybont team and came away with an excellent three points.

Barry stuck to the back three formation which saw them progress to the semi-final of the over 50s cup, with Sims, Averies and Murray playing in front of keeper Harding and given the tough task of keeping Penybont's habitual handful Vince Lewis quiet for 80 minutes! This formation allowed the midfield of Dupuy, Liligreen, Taylor, Sullivan and 'orchestrator' James, to dictate proceedings and support strikers Fredriksen and Bobbett in tormenting their adversaries.

They subsequently took a two-goal lead into half time, courtesy of a crisp finish from Taylor and a pile-driver from the excellent Liligreen.

During the break, stand-in managers Averies and Marshall called for much of the same in the second period, albeit this was under threat within minutes when Penybont pulled a goal back when a controversial penalty, awarded against Averies, was converted. Thankfully, any nerves were immediately removed when Bobbett restored the two goal buffer with his usual dexterity. In a resolute team performance even the customary injuries did not impact unduly, Marshall providing much needed calmness, but Harding was colossal between the sticks, making one brilliant save to deny the home side a share of the spoils.

AH

A trip to the Valleys for the Barry Chess Club

FOR the second consecutive week, the Barry Chess Club had only one match to play, and once again it was away from home at Treochy.

This week it was the turn of the Barry Stauntons in division four to make the long trek. Our opponents, Rhondda B are in fifth place in the table. However, due to a late team selection we ended up taking a stronger team than normal. It was a case of who is available, rather than who do I want.

The team selection suggested that perhaps our third consecutive match could be won. However it didn't work out that way. Ray Denyer took a long-awaited victory but John Stephenson, Peter Watkins and Stephen Maguire could only earn draws. The match result ended in a draw so our unbeaten run has been extended.

The Stauntons remain in seventh place but with a five-point gap to the Pentyrch Cardinals below them. They trail Rhondda by 4.5 points.

Barry Chess Club meets at 7:30 pm most Mondays at the West End Club. St. Nicholas Road, Barry, CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but it is better to contact one of the club members through the website first so that we can explain what is happening on the night and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival. For more details visit our website at: *barrychessclub.yolasite.com*

PJ

Under-15s in Cup triumph

FOLLOWING two postponements due to the bad weather, Maesteg Celtic finally played the quarter final of the Ospreys Cup (under-15s).

While the neutral venue at Ysgol Cwm Brombil, Port Talbot was indeed a fabulous facility with its 4G surface the weather, with the rain and wind at its most fierce, made conditions very difficult for players and spectators alike.

The original referee cried off on the day and the replacement was understandably delayed. Unfortunately, it meant all players and spectators were left to face the elements for at least half an hour, but all were grateful that the game could proceed.

Celtic, as last season's losing finalists, were looking for revenge and started with a bang. Playing with the wind they stormed into the lead with an excellent individual try from centre Morgan Davies, converted by No 10 George Richards.

Celtic started to dominate play, with the pack well led by captain James Williams, along with Dylan James, Chris Pound, Ioan Williams, Jackson Treloar and Danny Wilson.

Half backs Gorge Richards and Liam Wyatt used the wind cleverly. Following neat inter-passing among the forwards, hooker Chris Pound burst through to score under the posts for George Richards to convert.

Baglan responded with some enterprising runs from their speedy backs, but strong defence from Morgan Davies and Corey Thomas held them out.

Celtic were soon back on the attack, but the next score was a combined effort from both backs and forwards, with both Jackson Treloar, and Ben Blaiklock heavily involved as usual. The ball was quickly recycled, and spread right along the backs for Ethan Morris to sprint clear for a fine finish in the corner, which went unconverted.

Shortly after James Williams with Dylan James and Ioan Williams supporting, drove over to score just on halt time, which also went unconverted. The half time score was Celtic 24, Baglan 0.

In the second half, Baglan came more into the game with the wind at their backs, but Celtic were now playing with confidence and another fine move put Matthew Adams away from 40 metre out. With plenty still to do he scored an excellent try wide out, again unconverted.

Full back Declan Williams was looking assured as he coped well with everything Baglan and the elements could throw at him. Kai Thomas, Logan Swain Shay Davies and Osian Davies all made strong contributions.

Baglan were getting a bigger share of possession, but the Celtic backs, with Rhys Cahill, Corry Thomas and Morgan Davies, were still causing problems.

Baglan were eventually rewarded with two late converted tries, which made the score look more respectable, but overall it was a very impressive performance, and the team can look forward to the semis with confidence.

The final score was Celtic 29 – 14 Baglan.

KS

St Athan vets look forward

ON February 12 the sun was out, the wind was fresh, but thankfully storm Ciara had passed and more than 30 golfers took to the fairways of St Athan Golf Club for a veterans section nine-hole Stableford competition.

Despite the weather over previous days, golf trolleys and buggies were permitted and the course, though soft underfoot, was in good condition.

With over 70 members, age 55 and over, the St Athan Golf Club veterans meet every Wednesday for a variety of competitions over 9, 14 and 18 holes. Some are qualifying competitions for handicap revision and some are for section cups and trophies.

For the slightly more competitive golfers, we play four-ball better ball matches, home and away, against the senior sections of 12 other golf clubs. A team of 12 or 16 players normally tee off at 11am, have a very enjoyable round of golf followed by refreshments and a hearty meal.

So, if you just fancy playing in friendly golf competitions on Wednesday mornings on an easy walking golf course, or would also like slightly more competitive matches against other clubs over the spring and summer months, then come and join us.

For fixtures and results see our veterans section page on *www.stathangolfclub.wales*

GT

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The Blood and Blacks defy Storm Dennis

IT is in poor taste after a weekend that brought severe flooding to parts of south Wales to grumble about the number of rugby and football games that were cancelled.

However, it is OK, we think, to praise any clubs who did go ahead and play, so hats off to Llantwit Major RFC, who welcomed Hirwaun RFC to their base in the Vale. *Thanks to Andrew Halligan for the report.*

AS Storm Daniel brought 45mph winds and torrential rain to the region, it was a surprise that this match even took place last Saturday afternoon – and then for the Blood and Blacks of Llantwit to win the game 42-5 and score six tries was nothing short of remarkable.

Llantwit started the game at breakneck speed, notching up three tries within the first quarter as hooker Huw Williams and centre Josh Austin both crossed.

They were then awarded a penalty try after wing Alex Parry was hauled down illegally on a kick chase to the line. It gave the team a great start and a 21-0 lead.

For the rest of the first half the game tightened up considerably as Hirwaun battled back and put some good phases together as they worked nicely off their nine and ten to gain some forward domination. The Llantwit defence was having to work hard to keep them out and just managed to until the break.

In the second half Llantwit, now playing towards the School End, began with the same flourish as in the first, this time Alex Parry crossing in the bottom corner within minutes of the restart. Howley slotted over his third conversion, which was another remarkable story in its own right, three out of three from distance at awkward angles in a storm!

Llantwit, now 28 points to the good,began making tactical changes, but if anything gave the visiting team even more problems with Stuart Edbrooke coming on into the centre and scoring two cracking tries. The second completed a great team try started in their own 22.

Hirwaun had the final say. As they had done for the entire game, they battled and battled and finally found a dent in the Llantwit defence to force themselves over the line with a fine example of picking and going in the tight.

It was a great performance by the Llantwit Major team then but also by the club, this game only one of eight games played in the country, such was the damage done by Storm Dennis. The team would like to thank once again the battered spectators who were just as remarkable in number and most importantly, the backroom staff who worked, as always, tirelessly to get the pitch playable– none more so than the great clubman that is John Davies, still sprightly in his 70s and out with the garden fork in the torrential wind and rain. Without such men, there would be no rugby. We applaud you Mr Davies.

Man of the match was wing Alex Parry who had a great game, looking lively with the ball in hand and showing great confidence in dealing with defensive kicks. Further mention should go to Dafi Davies, who gave a master class in No 8 play.

The performance was top draw and so exceptional as, despite the truly awful conditions, the handling was sublime at times; and must surely put to bed some ridiculous notions in some quarters that this team, after a slight mid winter dip, can't play in the wet!

This week there is another enforced Six Nations break before the following Saturday, when the Llantonians make the trip up the Rhondda Valley to take on Treherbert once again. And if the recent match was anything to go by, another power house game will be on offer, with the Red Devils already promising a fiery welcome.

Cowbridge Darts League

Highwayman Inn close the gap on league leaders Edmondes B...

FEBRUARY 11 was an interesting evening at the Farmers Arms.

The Hairy Farmers were up against last year's champions and this year's league leaders, the Edmondes B. At the end of the singles matches the Hairy Farmers had an 8-5 lead, helped along by Tim Knight (Hairy Farmers) hitting a 120 three-dart-out. Another notable individual performance was Martin Thomas (Edmondes B) who hit a 118 three-dart-out to win a leg in 9 darts. In the first doubles match, John Izzard and Tim Knight were very unlucky not to win 2-0, but the score was eventually 2-1 giving the Hairy Farmers a 10-6 lead. For the Edmondes B, winning that leg turned out to be very important as they went on to win the next two doubles matches 2-0 to draw the game at 10-10.

This helped the Highwayman Inn, by beating the Red Lion 15-6, to close the gap at the top of the table. In this match Tom Verrill (Highwayman) hit a 180. In the other matches the Victoria Inn beat the Edmondes A 13-8 and the Town Hall Criers beat the Edmondes C 14-9. The Farmers Arms had a bye. Present league standings after 11 weeks, are: Edmondes B (143 points), Highwayman Inn (134), Victoria Inn (115), Hairy Farmers (104), Farmers Arms (99), Edmondes A (96), Town Hall Criers (94), Edmondes C (80) and Red Lion Inn (65).

On Tuesday, February 25 The Town Hall Criers host the Farmers Arms, the Highwayman Inn hosts the Edmondes A, the Edmondes B hosts the Edmondes C and the Hairy Farmers host the Red Lion Inn. The Victoria Inn have a bye.

All matches start at 8.15pm; for further information e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@gmail.com. up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk.

PJT

Bridgend Bridge Club latest news

THE latest results for Bridgend Bridge Club are as follows:

A teams competition was played on February 12: First, Tony Disley, John Evans, Emer Disley and Dave Lea; second, Steve Burgoyne, Bill Turner, and Norma and David Newman.

On February 13: First, V Irene Thomas and Dilys Bowser; second, Marjorie Halley and Sheila Gass; third, Paul Lyne and Stuart Davies. The winners on handicap were V Irene Thomas and Dilys Bowser.

On February 14: First, Vida Halford and Glyn Williams; second, Steve Burgoyne and John Evans; third Irene Thomas and Graham Jones. The winners on handicap were Vida Halford and Glyn Williams.

Regular club nights take place at 7pm on Wednesday and Friday evenings at Nolton Church Hall. On Thursday afternoons at 1:45pm there is a gentle bridge session when help is available with the bidding. All sessions are played in a friendly manner, visitors and new members are always welcome.

GJ

Penallta are too strong for Ath Generals

PENALLTA'S 4G pitch meant that the game between Penallta Second XV and Bridgend Athletic Generals Penallta's 4G pitch was one of the few fixtures in Wales to survive storm Dennis.

Penallta had a squad of 32 mainly experienced players – exactly the number of points they scored in a 32–0 win – and they proved too strong on the day for the Athletic Generals, who were giving four Youth players an experience of senior rugby.

In very testing conditions, despite the Athletic defending well on occasions, Penallta were clinical in finishing on their excursions into the Athletic 22.

The score line would have been less flattering to the home side if the Athletic had taken their chances,

The pick of the Athletic forwards were locks Ben Cording and youth player Morgan Bennett, with wing Ryan Pickford standing out in the backs.

The three other youth players on show hooker Jack Obbard, flanker Josh Llewellyn and wing George Tellem also had good games.

AB

Barry look forward to clash against old rivals Caernarfon

Caernarfon celebrate scoring in the Welsh Cup against Barry.

AFTER their JD Cymru Premier trip to Newtown was blown into postponement by Storm Dennis, Gavin Chesterfield's Barry welcome familiar foes Caernarfon to Jenner Park on Saturday (February 22), hoping to weather the storms posed by an increasingly-turbulent Championship Conference.

With a 4-0 win over the Canaries installing Connah's Quay Nomads as the league's new leaders, new boss Huw Griffiths will be eager to get his Caernarfon team back on track at Jenner Park, while Chesterfield will know his Barry side cannot afford to drop any points this weekend, especially with only three home games left in their league campaign after Saturday's encounter.

With Nomads, TNS and Bala all having plenty to play for and Newtown circling as recurring bogey opponents, Caernarfon at home is surely a must-win and though Griffiths has yet to bring a Cofis team to Barry, the men from the north Wales coast are far from strangers to the Jenner faithful.

Indeed, the dangers posed by the likes of Darren Thomas, Nathan Craig and others have been a regular feature of *Sgorio* broadcasts in recent years, with Caernarfon attempting to qualify for European football for the first time in a history played out largely over the border in England.

Long-time followers will recall that Barry and Caernarfon were two of Wales' so-called 'Irate Eight', the eight defiant clubs who resisted placement in the newly-created League of Wales back in 1992.

The fallout from this stand-off forced the Barry first team to fulfil their home fixtures 100 miles from Jenner Park at Worcester City's St George's Lane, while Caernarfon soldiered on from their own makeshift base at Curzon Ashton, Manchester, a four-hour return trip from The Oval.

By 1995, after respective crowds across the border had dipped dangerously into double-figures, both clubs had sensed the writing on the wall and switched to the Welsh pyramid, although unlike fellow rebels Barry, Caernarfon were not required to win promotion to secure their seat at the top table.

In their farewell season as a Northern Premier League club, Caernarfon finished ahead of current League One side Fleetwood, much as Barry had eclipsed Newport and Forest Green in the south.

Their first collision in the League of Wales saw Barry win 2-0 at The Oval that October. It would prove the first of no fewer than 17 consecutive head-to-head victories for the Jenner Park outfit.

Among the more memorable was a 5-2 televised romp in January 1997 that attracted a league-record 2,746 to Jenner Park, and a 3-0 triumph for Gary Barnett's Town in 1999's Gilbert League Cup final.

However, as Barry's professional era came crumbling down in August 2003, Caernarfon would exact their ruthless revenge, inflicting an 8–0 humbling on a hastily-assembled, stand-in squad, in spite of the efforts of Matthew Case's battling band of recruits from the Vale of Glamorgan Premier League.

While the Canaries netted five more in the January 2004 reverse, it is only in recent seasons that the two sides have occupied a comparable standing in Wales, with results between them reflecting this.

After Nathan Craig's show-stopping free-kick helped Caernarfon to a 2–0 home triumph in 2017-18's JD Welsh Cup, the teams renewed league hostilities the subsequent September, with Marcus Jones claiming his first and only Barry goal in the closing minutes of a dramatic 1-0 victory at The Oval.

Then, goals from Kayne McLaggon and Mo Touray helped Barry edge to a 2-1 success at Jenner Park three days before Christmas, only for Craig to strike again in another 2-0 Canaries win on home turf.

Last March, Jonathan Hood joined McLaggon and brace-bagger Touray in ensuring a 4-0 flooring of the north Walians, yet the pendulum would swing once again in November, as a trio of second-half goals clinched a 4-1 win for Caernarfon, after McLaggon's penalty negated Darren Thomas' opener.

With honours even on their last Jenner Park rendezvous, the outcome of Saturday's latest league showdown is perilous to predict, though Barry will be boosted by McLaggon's return after his controversial red card against Connah's Quay was rescinded, quashing any suspension threat.

Among those vying for a starting berth on Saturday are Wales international David Cotterill and St Kitts and Nevis midfielder Theo Wharton, while the likes of Jack Compton, Keyon Reffell and long-term injury absentee Robbie Patten all appear poised to return to Chesterfield's matchday squad.

Kick-off between Barry and Caernarfon Town this Saturday is at 2.30pm.

Report by Ashley Cox